



February 4, 2021

Honorable Nancy Pelosi
United States House of Representatives
H-222 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Kevin McCarthy
United States House of Representatives
H-204 The Capitol
Washington DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

I am writing this letter of support on behalf of the residents of the City of Sheboygan located in America's heartland to implore you to pass the American Rescue Plan that includes urgently needed financial relief for cities and towns that have borne the brunt of the impact from the pandemic. With infections, hospitalizations, and deaths at unprecedented levels, and economic recovery stalling, our citizens are looking for immediate action from Washington and we urge you to avoid further delay and approve a new relief package that includes revenue replacement for local governments.

Cities are on the front lines confronting the pandemic and suffering from the damage it has caused to our local economies and the revenue shortfalls that threaten our ability to maintain vital services for our constituents. Our Midwest cities reflect the national impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, where on average cities have seen revenues decline by more than 20 percent while expenditures have increased by 17 percent.

Without federal financial assistance, our nation's economic recovery will stall and cities and towns—both urban and rural—will be further challenged in rebuilding healthy local economies. Federal aid will also enable our cities to sustain joint response efforts from the public and private sector, and support partnerships between local governments, businesses and their communities to mitigate the economic, health and public safety impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We stress to you the urgency of this request and the need for action now to avoid delays in administering critically needed federal assistance that will impact the health and livelihoods of millions of our citizens. Our residents appreciate your support for our efforts to maintain public health and safety and keep us on a sustained path to economic recovery.

Sincerely,

Mike Vandersteen, Mayor

MAYOR'S OFFICE

CITY HALL
828 CENTER AVE.
SHEBOYGAN, WI
53081

920-459-3317
sheboyganwi.gov



The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
Chairwoman
House Oversight and Reform Committee
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable James Comer
Ranking Member
House Oversight and Reform Committee
2105 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

February 11, 2021

Dear Chairwoman Maloney and Ranking Member Comer,

On behalf of the five most populous cities in Wisconsin and our 1.1 million residents, we write to convey our support for the American Rescue Plan, including \$350 billion worth of federal assistance for state and local governments as proposed by President Joseph R. Biden. As mayors, we are proud of our public health, emergency medical personnel, police officers, firefighters, teachers, sanitation workers, and other civil servants who have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to protect public health and deliver essential services to our communities. We ask the House Committee on Oversight and Reform to maintain this level of funding for state and local aid and to develop an equitable distribution formula that provides direct, flexible aid to all localities tasked with managing the emergency response and vaccination efforts on the ground, regardless of size.

For nearly a year, localities have led the public health emergency response and efforts to prevent homelessness, support small businesses, ensure no family goes hungry, and continue providing other essential services. We have managed to undertake those efforts with fewer public employees on staff and without promise of future federal support. Moving forward in 2021, local governments are being tasked with vaccine distribution and spearheading an economic recovery.

Our communities are still reeling from the impact of the virus. There have been 550,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Wisconsin and nearly 25,000 have been hospitalized since the onset of the pandemic.¹ Tragically, over 6,000 people in Wisconsin have succumbed to the virus, and we mourn those lives lost and grieve with those families and communities forever changed.

As local officials, we must also consider the economic burden of this pandemic, including the steep decrease in public sector employment since last spring. Between December 2019 and December 2020, Wisconsin experienced 33,900 public sector job losses – during this moment when our residents are counting on public employees and the services provided by our municipalities more than ever.² While there is modest recovery in employment in some industries, state and local governments will need to continue implementing cost-savings measures. Without federal relief, many jurisdictions will be forced to lay off and furlough workers to balance our budgets that will continue seeing revenue decreases this year and next.

The story is the same for communities across Wisconsin and the rest of the country. Public sector employment in the U.S. is down 1.3 million since last February. For the vast majority of municipal governments, according to a survey by the National League of Cities, local government expenses have increased by an average of 17 percent during the pandemic while revenues have declined by an average of 21 percent.

¹ "COVID-19 Summary Data," Wisconsin Department of Health Services, updated February 8, 2021, <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/data.htm#summary>.

² U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Employees on nonfarm payrolls by state and selected industry sector, seasonally adjusted," U.S. Department of Labor, updated January 26, 2021, <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/laus.t03.htm>.

We appreciate the relief that Congress provided by passing the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* (P.L. 116-136) last March; however, while that legislation established the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) for state and local governments with populations of more than 500,000 residents, it left an overwhelming majority of city governments and our municipal employees behind. Of the 72 counties and 585 municipalities in Wisconsin, only two counties and one city were eligible to receive a direct allocation from the CRF because of the 500,000-population threshold.³ Only three local jurisdictions were afforded the opportunity to have total authority making spending decisions to determine the fates of their communities. We ask policymakers to reject that approach this time and instead empower all localities to determine the most effective use of federal funds without bureaucracy at the state or county level.

Here in Wisconsin, the State government received \$2 billion in CRF funds and made only \$200 million – or 10 percent – available to cities and counties through the “Routes to Recovery” grant program.⁴ This outcome was inequitable and unacceptable for the 70 counties and 584 local governments in Wisconsin that did not receive a direct allocation from the *CARES Act*. It was frustrating when our partners in State government then imposed additional restrictions on the use of these funds, thereby hindering our ability to be as dynamic as possible, as federal lawmakers intended within the statute.

Therefore, we respectfully ask the Committee to draft legislation that utilizes a distribution formula that ensures cities of all sizes receive an adequate share of relief funds. The Committee might consider the formula included in the HEROES Act introduced in the 116th Congress or other formulas like that used by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to allocate Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to all localities.

We are confident that our city governments are the best positioned to protect public health and jumpstart our local economies with direct, flexible, and equitable federal support. We appreciate your consideration of these requests intended to help your intergovernmental partners to continue to protect our essential workers and provide essential services to our residents. Thank you for your leadership and your work on behalf of the American people.

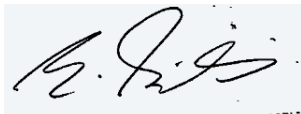
Sincerely,



Mayor Tom Barrett
City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin



Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway
City of Madison, Wisconsin



Mayor Eric Genrich
City of Green Bay, Wisconsin



Mayor John Antaramian
City of Kenosha, Wisconsin



Mayor Cory Mason
City of Racine, Wisconsin

³ Payments to States and Eligible Units of Local Government,” U.S. Department of the Treasury, updated May 11, 2020, <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Payments-to-States-and-Units-of-Local-Government.pdf>).

⁴ “Routes to Recovery: Program Guidance for Local Governments,” State of Wisconsin Department of Administration, updated November 4, 2020, <https://doa.wi.gov/Secretary/RRG-ProgramGuidance.pdf>.



City of Tacoma

Mayor Victoria Woodards

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
Chairwoman
House Oversight and Reform Committee
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable James Comer
Ranking Member
House Oversight and Reform Committee
2105 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

February 5, 2021

Dear Chairwoman Maloney and Ranking Member Comer,

On behalf of the City of Tacoma, I write to voice support for the American Rescue Plan. As a mayor, I firmly believe that passing the plan is the critical first step in providing support for state and local partners to protect the public, defeat the virus, and promote healing in communities across the country. As you engage with the White House and negotiate with your colleagues on Capitol Hill, I urge you to maintain the \$350 billion worth of federal relief for state and local governments and utilize a distribution formula that ensures that cities of all sizes, like Tacoma, can keep our essential workers on payroll and continue delivering municipal services to our residents in this hour of need. The legislative text that emerges from the House Oversight and Reform Committee will shape how effectively thousands of municipalities in the United States respond to and recover from this devastating pandemic.

A resident of Washington State became the first person in the U.S. to test positive for COVID-19 one year ago. Since then, the City of Tacoma and surrounding communities have overseen the local public health response, providing substantial dedicated personnel and absorbing administrative costs across every municipal department addressing community needs. Preexisting problems have been exacerbated by the pandemic. Far too many constituents are experiencing job loss, income insecurity, housing insecurity or homelessness, food insecurity, mental health issues, and declining business. We incurred unforeseen expenses, while experiencing a precipitous decline in revenues. The National League of Cities (NLC) reports that local revenues decreased by 21 percent, while expenditures increased by 17 percent on average. Cities have been asked to do far more, like ensuring the successful vaccination of the public, without adequate support.

The City is appreciative of the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* (P.L. 116-136), which provided some initial relief to Washington State and Pierce County. However, the City of Tacoma did not receive a direct allocation from the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) because our population is under 500,000 residents. The City of Tacoma accounts for 24% of Pierce County's population, but we received only \$9 million worth of reimbursement (or 5.7%) of the County's \$157 million allocation from the U.S. Department of Treasury. It does not cover \$10.1 million expended on the public health response last year, and it is certainly not

an equitable outcome for our 217,000 residents, especially our most vulnerable and marginalized communities. Given your leadership positions on the House Oversight and Reform Committee, I respectfully ask for your support of a formula that will distribute equitable, flexible relief to localities of all sizes.

The Tacoma City Council recently passed a biennial budget with a variety of personnel and spending reductions. The City is contending with a \$20 million budget shortfall for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 and projecting revenue shortfalls in our General Fund exceeding \$32 million in FY 2021 and \$35 million in FY 2022. Our public facilities district lost an additional \$15.4 million last year due to event cancellations at the Tacoma Dome and Convention Center. Because of the shortfall, we implemented a two-percent reduction to our police department and recently took one fire engine out of commission. My colleagues and I are very concerned about the cuts to our fire department given their primary role in the emergency response and the fact that it took years to restore our service levels after the Great Recession. Federal relief can help undo some of this damage, avoid further reductions, and maintain essential workers on our payroll.

As you draft legislative text in committee and engage with the Administration, I ask you to fight to keep the \$350 billion worth of state and local assistance proposed in the American Rescue Plan. Now is the time for Congress to finally stand up for our emergency medical personnel, police officers, firefighters, and other municipal workers serving on the frontlines in Tacoma, as well as in your own communities.

Thank you for your earlier actions to combat the coronavirus. Please let me know how the City of Tacoma can most effectively serve as your partner in passing additional pandemic relief that meets the moment and provides a lifeline to state and local governments. I wish you good health and great strength as you guide our nation through difficult days and historic challenges.

Yours in Service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Victoria R. Woodards". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a long, sweeping underline.

Mayor Victoria R. Woodards
City of Tacoma, Washington



The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
Chairwoman
House Committee on Oversight and Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable James Comer
Ranking Member
House Committee on Oversight and Reform
2105 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

February 5, 2021

Dear Chairwoman Maloney and Ranking Member Comer,

Salt Lake City contended with many challenges over the past year: an earthquake, police violence and civil unrest, and obviously the coronavirus pandemic that has devastated the world. As Mayor, I appreciate the efforts of federal lawmakers to deliver relief for our city and constituents as we respond to the public health and economic crises at hand. I am writing today to express my support for the American Rescue Plan introduced by the Administration. I would like to respectfully ask Congressional leaders to support the inclusion of \$350 billion worth of state and local assistance as proposed by President Joseph Biden. Direct federal relief for localities of all sizes will better enable Salt Lake City to vaccinate the public, contain the virus, curb the economic fallout, and maintain our essential workers and services, if we are allowed to cover costs and revenue losses.

Since the outbreak began and Congress passed the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act* (P.L. 116-136) nearly a year ago, our city government worked diligently to protect the public health and economic vitality of our community. We have done so without a direct allocation from the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) administered by the U.S. Department of Treasury because our population is under 500,000 people. We provided testing for the masses and increased critical services for the most vulnerable. There has been an increased need for first responders, specifically police, fire, and dispatchers. Salt Lake City absorbed a disproportionate share of cases from the region as our Utah neighbors sought treatment in our hospitals. While I am proud of these efforts, the undertaking had a real financial burden. I hope policymakers understand the inequitable outcomes stemming the CARES distribution formula and seek to correct that.

My team projects a budget shortfall exceeding \$24.6 million for Fiscal Years (FY) 2020-2021. Our local revenue losses are projected to triple from \$4.5 million in FY 2020 to \$15.2 million in FY 2021. The City has taken several measures to minimize this gap by reducing expenditures, implementing a hiring freeze, cutting nonessential programs, delaying capital projects, and transitioning employees to remote work. However, those measures cannot fully negate a precipitous decline in revenues and increased costs associated with the prolonged emergency response, including overtime pay and new responsibilities to support vaccinations.

It is imperative that any forthcoming legislation provides direct, flexible relief to local governments of all sizes, not just those with more than 500,000 residents. When federal funds are allocated only to the upstream jurisdictions, cities are not guaranteed an equitable sub-allocation, and any forthcoming federal funds are often delayed or accompanied by additional, burdensome



restrictions that limit our ability to respond dynamically. Salt Lake City – the most populous city in Utah – experienced those complications firsthand. Localities are leading the public health emergency response, and federal funding formulas ought to reflect that reality.

Recent funds distributed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for vaccine administration underscore this point. Only four cities nationwide received direct allocations because funds were distributed using Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) cooperative agreements. Uncertainty and bureaucracy at the state level impedes our ability to scale local sites and vaccinate the population as fast as possible. As legislative text is drafted, I respectfully ask for your advocacy of distribution formulas that ensure all local governments receive direct, equitable resources to support our response.

Please let me know if I can provide any more information that would be helpful to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform as your work on the next coronavirus relief package advances. I appreciate this opportunity to share our City's priorities as we work to protect the public and provide relief to families, workers, and businesses. Thank you for your leadership and your consideration of our local concerns and experience to date.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Mendenhall", is positioned above the typed name.

Mayor Erin Mendenhall
Salt Lake City, Utah

City Administrator
Rona Stringfellow

City Secretary
Mayra A. Ortiz



City of Wilmer
Serving Our Community

Mayor
Emmanuel Wealthy

Mayor Pro-Tem
Candy Madrigal

Council Members
Sergio Campos
Melissa Ramirez
Phyllis Slough
Jeff Steele

Office of the Mayor

May 12, 2020

U.S. Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson
Dallas District Office
1825 Market Center Blvd., Suite 440
Dallas, TX 75207

Dear Congresswoman Johnson:

As Congress considers additional federal assistance packages in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is critical that you include direct relief to cities, towns and villages.

Businesses and community organizations across our country depend on the economic strength and vitality of municipalities. Not only do our nation's cities provide an anchor for local economic development, they also provide the essential services that businesses depend on to ensure we remain competitive, including access to clean water, public safety, reliable infrastructure and a strong workforce base. Without a lifeline to recover and restore local economic activity, cities, towns and villages will be forced to make cuts to essential services that will have a ripple effect across the public and private sectors.

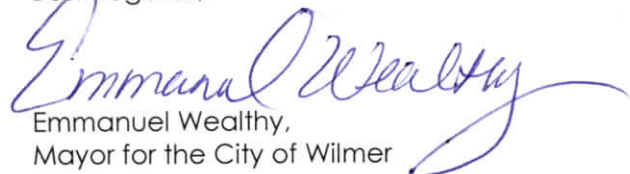
For organizations such as the City of Wilmer, based in Wilmer, Texas, it is because of our strong community partnership that we can thrive. The strong leadership of our local elected officials, and the partnership they have provided to local businesses is critical to our success. If cities fail to thrive, we all fail to thrive.

We know that you understand the importance of this relationship in our great state of Texas and we hope that we can rely on your support for legislation that includes:

- \$500 billion over two years of federal aid for local governments
- Fair and direct funding allocations to each and every local government, with no exclusions based on population
- Equal funding overall for municipal governments and county governments
- Maximum flexibility for the eligible use of funds to address the budget consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Best Regards,


Emmanuel Wealthy,
Mayor for the City of Wilmer

City of Wilmer
128 N. Dallas Avenue, Wilmer, Texas 75172
972-441-6373 (tele) / 972-441-3061 (fax)

February 3, 2021

Honorable Members of the Texas Delegation:

As Texas combats the third and largest surge of the COVID-19 pandemic, we once again write to request that Congress provide direct and flexible fiscal assistance to local governments of all sizes. Texas cities need help to continue to address the pandemic and its economic and social impacts and to weather budget shortfalls that we face through no fault of our own.

The budget calamity looming over local governments is real and requires extraordinary measures. As the numbers recently released by Comptroller Hegar illustrate, Texas is not immune from this pain. He reports that December 2020 general fund tax revenues were 9.26% below December 2019's figures. Please note that these numbers do not include delayed property tax revenue losses, the primary source of local government revenue in Texas. Property taxes are always a lagging economic indicator, and we therefore fear that it will be some time before our revenues rebound from the pandemic. All Texas cities are grappling with this devastating reduction in revenue as a result of an unprecedented pandemic. In addition, we are facing this fiscal crisis at the same time we continue to address major public health and public safety challenges and are incurring significant costs to ramp up vaccination efforts and other pandemic prevention and response activities. Cities have been, and will continue to be, the first responders to our pandemic – assistance cannot come at a more necessary time.

Texas cities are major employers that provide core local government services to tens of millions of Texans. However, we are all mandated to balance our budgets and cannot weather a budget deficit for long. Absent direct and flexible assistance, we fear that we will be forced to cut our workforce and reduce services, exacerbating the economic and public health crises created by this pandemic. Indeed, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that local governments have already cut 1 million jobs since the pandemic began, including 56,000 in Texas. Furthermore, without direct and flexible fiscal assistance, those unemployment numbers will only get worse, leading to a drag on economic recovery and hurting efforts to safely reopen our economy.

There is broad support for direct and flexible fiscal assistance to local governments. Federal Reserve Board Chairman Jerome Powell and Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen have endorsed it in testimony to Congress and in other public remarks, arguing that local government budget cuts threaten to stymie economic recovery and hurt core government services later this year, and potentially years following. Closer to home, Dallas Federal Reserve Bank President Robert Kaplan has repeatedly voiced strong support for fiscal assistance to local governments. In

addition, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and many other national organizations have called for fiscal assistance to state and local governments.

Texas metropolitan areas account for 93.1% of the Texas economy. Vibrant metropolitan areas with strong, fiscally stable local governments will be key to defeating the pandemic and managing the reopening of the Texas economy. Simply put, it will be impossible to have fiscally stable local governments without flexible fiscal assistance directly allocated from the federal government.

Thank you again for your efforts during this unprecedented time and for your attention to our request. We are confident that, working together, our nation can overcome this crisis.

Sincerely,



Sylvester Turner, Mayor
City of Houston



Ron Nirenberg, Mayor
City of San Antonio



Eric Johnson, Mayor
City of Dallas



Steve Adler, Mayor
City of Austin



Jeff Williams, Mayor
City of Arlington



Oscar Leeser, Mayor
City of El Paso



Harry LaRosiliere, Mayor
City of Plano



Paulette M. Guajardo, Mayor
City of Corpus Christi



Mayor Ron Jensen
City of Grand Prairie



Pete Saenz, Mayor
City of Laredo



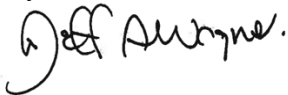
Dan Pope, Mayor
City of Lubbock



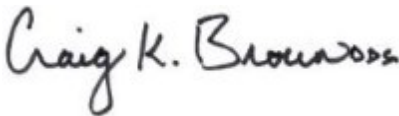
Rick Stopfer, Mayor
City of Irving



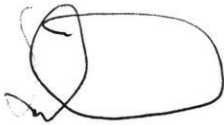
Ginger Nelson, Mayor
City of Amarillo



Jeff Wagner, Mayor
City of Pasadena



Craig K. Brown, Mayor
City of Galveston



Joe Zimmerman, Mayor
City of Sugar Land



Paul Voelker, Mayor
City of Richardson


Bill Blackburn, Mayor

Bill Blackburn, Mayor
City of Kerrville



Geary Smith, Mayor
City of Mexia



Paul Johnson, Mayor
City of Jonestown



James E. Darling, Mayor
City of McAllen



Karen Hunt, Mayor
City of Coppell



Josh Schroder, Mayor
City of Georgetown



Stephen L. Santellana, Mayor
City of Wichita Falls



Brenda Gunter, Mayor
City of San Angelo




Sara Post Meyer, Mayor
City of Cuero




Dr. Ianthia Fisher, Mayor
City of Crockett



Sergio Coronado, Mayor
City of Hidalgo



Antonio Araujo, Mayor
City of San Elizario



Todd Wright, Mayor
City of Petronila



Al Turnage, Mayor
City of Hooks



Cissy Gonzalez-Dippel, Mayor
City of Floresville



Mike Hendricks, Mayor
City of Luling



Spencer H. Smith, Mayor
City of Harker Heights



Clyde C. Hairston, Mayor
City of Lancaster



Connie Schroeder, Mayor
City of Bastrop



Olan Kelley, Mayor
City of Highland Haven



Terrill Bartlett, Mayor
City of Canadian



Tammy Dana-Bashian, Mayor
City of Rowlett



Tobe Shields, Mayor
City of Spearman




Lee Urbanovsky, Mayor
City of Buda



Willie Leal, Jr., Mayor
City of Poteet



Ricky Swick, Mayor
City of Bremond



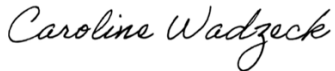
Ron Humphrey, Mayor
City of New Boston



Cathy Skurow, Mayor
City of Portland



George Galbreath, Mayor
City of Thorndale



Caroline Wadzeck, Mayor
City of Dayton



Arthur L. Miner, Mayor
City of Watauga



Sean Skipworth, Mayor
City of Dickinson



Leroy Hughes, Mayor
City of San Augustine



David Hoover, City Manager
City of Colorado City



Roger Shugart, Mayor
City of Brazoria



Gilbert Gomez, Mayor
City of Robstown



David Hillock, Mayor
Town of Little Elm



Sam R. Fugate, Mayor
City of Kingsville



Juan Jose Zamora, Mayor
City of Port Isabel



Tom Daly, Mayor
City of Selma



Doyle Robinson, Mayor
City of Panhandle



Barbra Pinner, Mayor
City of Levelland



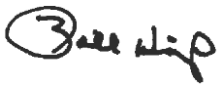
Ricardo Guerra, Mayor
City of San Benito



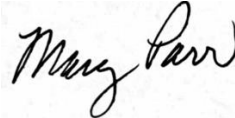
Jane Hughson, Mayor
City of San Marcos



Tim Handren, Mayor
City of Boerne



William M. "Bill" Hastings, Mayor
City of Katy



Mary Parr, Mayor
City of Eagle Lake



Pam Gosline, Mayor
City of Vernon



C.R. Evans, Jr., Mayor
City of Overton



Robert Williams, Mayor
City of Jourdanton



Michael Barnhart, Mayor
City of Lake Dallas



Ambrosio Hernandez, Mayor
City of Pharr

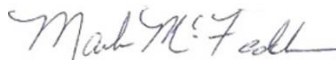
Sincerely,



Patrick Payton, Mayor
City of Midland

Olan Kelley

Olan Kelley, Mayor
City of Highland Haven



Mark McFadden, Mayor
City of Olton



Manuel Baeza, Mayor
City of Marfa



Mark L. Stanfill, DVM, Mayor
City of Red Oak



Tom Hesse, Mayor
City of Brownfield



Jim Olk, Mayor
City of Lucas



Vicki Sanson, Mayor
City of Lavon

Joe Carlyle

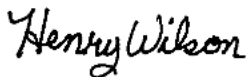
Joe Carlyle, Mayor
City of Troup



Sheila Petta, Mayor
City of Wilmer



Rick Carmona, Mayor
City of Terrell



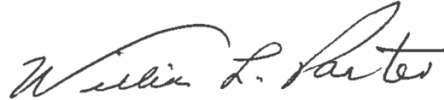
Henry Wilson, Mayor
City of Hurst



Cathy Bennett, Mayor
City of Ivanhoe



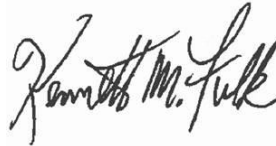
Larry Vernon, Mayor
City of Eastland



William L. Parten, Mayor
City of Madisonville



Mike Foreman, Mayor
City of Friendswood



Kenneth M. Fulk, Mayor
City of Allen



February 4, 2021

Memorandum to Texas Delegation from Hon. Renee Couch, President, and Susan M. Redford, Executive Director, Texas Association of Counties

As the 117th Congress begins, the Texas Association of Counties looks forward to working with you and your staff to improve the lives of twenty-nine million Texans. We intend to build an even stronger federal-local partnership during the pandemic recovery.

Our federal team will contact your staff and request a call or virtual meeting to discuss the challenges facing Texas counties this year.

Texas counties are still managing a historic public health crisis and face an uncertain fiscal future. Most counties (242 of 254) did not receive direct assistance from the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF).

Last year, Texas received \$11.24 billion, and eligible jurisdictions (populations above 500,000) received \$3.2 billion in direct payments. The state received \$8 billion and allocated \$1.85 billion for local governments that did not qualify for direct assistance. However, the state created distribution requirements more restrictive than Congress intended and the US Treasury guidance outlined. That has made it difficult for many counties to meet the application criteria.

Texas counties have used the CRF to support public health and safety while promoting economic opportunities for businesses and individuals.

As Congress considers additional economic relief for state and local governments, Texas counties urge you to:

- **Provide direct relief for counties of all sizes.**
- **Divide federal funding equally between cities and counties using a population formula.**
- **Make lost revenue an eligible use for CRF and future funding.**
- **Establish accountability standards to ensure the proper use of federal funds.**

We also look forward to discussing other issues facing Texas counties, including broadband access, healthcare, and infrastructure. Please contact Austin McCarty (austinm@county.org or 512-478-8753) or Cary Roberts (caryr@county.org or 512-560-0434) if you or your staff need additional information.

Sincerely,

Hon. Renee Couch
Comal Country Treasurer
President, Texas Association of Counties

Susan M. Redford
Executive Director
Texas Association of Counties

February 11, 2021

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Members of Congress:

As elected leaders representing communities across our nation, we are writing to urge you to take immediate action on comprehensive coronavirus relief legislation, including desperately needed funding for states, counties, cities, and schools, and an increase in states' federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP). President Biden's ambitious \$1.9 trillion *American Rescue Plan* will go a long way towards alleviating the significant financial strain COVID-19 has placed on our states, counties, cities, and schools, and the pocketbooks of working families.

Working people have been on the frontlines of this pandemic for nearly a year and have continued to do their jobs during this difficult time. Dedicated public servants are still leaving their homes to ensure Americans continue to receive the essential services they rely upon: teachers and education workers are doing their best to provide quality education and keep their students safe, janitors are still keeping parks and public buildings clean, while healthcare providers are continuing to care for the sick. Meanwhile, it has been ten months since Congress passed the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund to support these frontline workers and the essential services they provide. Without significant economic assistance from the federal government, many of these currently-middle class working families are at risk of falling into poverty through no fault of their own. It is a painful irony that while many have rightly called these essential workers heroes, our country has failed to truly respect them with a promise to protect them and pay them throughout the crisis.

Our states, counties, cities, and schools are also in desperate need of additional funding. Due to the chaotic federal response of the previous administration, state and local governments have been left to shoulder the burden of responding to the pandemic using their finite resources to fight COVID-19 while helping their residents stay safe, healthy, and financially stable. Already 1.4 million frontline public service workers have been furloughed and laid off and more layoffs are expected. Black women, who account for the highest share of workers in the public sector, have been especially hard hit. In communities nationwide, this means reduced mental health and addiction services, lower emergency response times, higher patient loads for nurses, fewer answered cries for help from domestic violence victims, dirtier streets, overcrowded prisons, and decaying roads and bridges. There have also been cuts to schools, health care, and other core public functions needed to meet the logistical challenges of distributing the COVID-19 vaccine and crush this virus once and for all.

We need immediate action by the federal government to ensure the health, safety, and financial security of working people across our country and to breathe life back into an underperforming economy, which bled 140,000 jobs in December. The Economic Policy Institute (EPI) and others have argued persuasively that insufficient support for state and local services after the 2007 Great Recession slowed the recovery to full employment. We cannot repeat this same mistake. To beat this virus and ensure an inclusive recovery, we the undersigned call upon you to invest in our states, counties, cities, and schools without delay.

Sincerely,

Tony Evers, Governor, State of Wisconsin

Joshua F. Tenorio, Lieutenant Governor, Territory of Guam
Denny Heck, Lieutenant Governor, State of Washington
Bethany Hall-Long, Lieutenant Governor, State of Delaware
Mandela Barnes, Lieutenant Governor, State of Wisconsin
John Fetterman, Lieutenant Governor, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Kate Marshall, Lieutenant Governor, State of Nevada
Molly Gray, Lieutenant Governor, State of Vermont

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Nick Pisciotto, Representative, Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Chris Rabb, Representative, Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Christina Sappey, Representative, Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Peter Schwyer, Representative, Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Mike Schlossberg, Representative, Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Perry Warren, Representative, Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Joe Webster, Representative, Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Alan Vandersloot, Councilmember, Borough of West York, PA
Helen Gym, Councilmember, City of Philadelphia
Erika Strassburger, Councilmember, City of Pittsburgh, PA

Rachel Miller, Councilmember, City of Providence, RI

John Ray Clemmons, Representative, Tennessee House of Representatives
Vincent Dixie, Representative, Tennessee House of Representatives
Bob Freeman, Representative, Tennessee House of Representatives
Jason Hodges, Representative, Tennessee House of Representatives
Gloria Johnson, Representative, Tennessee House of Representatives
London Lamar, Representative, Tennessee House of Representatives
Emily Benedict, Councilmember, City of Nashville, TN
Russ Bradford, Councilmember, City of Nashville, TN
Tom Cash, Councilmember, City of Nashville, TN
Erin Evans, Councilmember, City of Nashville, TN
Gloria Hausser, Councilmember, City of Nashville, TN
Robert Nash, Councilmember, City of Nashville, TN
Delishia D. Porterfield, Councilmember, City of Nashville, TN
Freddie O'Connell, Councilmember, City of Nashville, TN
Joy Styles, Councilmember, City of Nashville, TN
Ginny Welsch, Councilmember, City of Nashville, TN
Zach Young, Councilmember, City of Nashville, TN
John Little, School Board Member, City of Nashville, TN
Freda Player-Peters, School Board Member, City of Nashville, TN
Abigail Tylor, School Board Member, City of Nashville, TN

Lauren Doherty, Councilmember, City of Allen, TX
Tartisha Hill, Councilmember, City of Batch Springs, TX

Arlyn Bradshaw, Councilmember, Salt Lake County, UT
Ann Granato, Council Representative, Salt Lake County, UT

Ghazala F. Hashmi, Senator, Virginia State Senate
David Marsden, Senator, Virginia State Senate, VA

Hala Ayala, Delegate, Virginia House of Delegates
Elizabeth Guzman, Delegate, Virginia House of Delegates
Dan Helmer, Delegate, Virginia House of Delegates
Sally Hudson, Delegate, Virginia House of Delegates
Candi Mundon King, Delegate, Virginia House of Delegates
Kaye Kory, Delegate, Virginia House of Delegates
Mark H. Levine, Delegate, Virginia House of Delegates
Sam Rasoul, Delegate, Virginia House of Delegates
Shelly Simonds, Delegate, Virginia House of Delegates
Suhas Subramanyam, Delegate, Virginia House of Delegates
Andria McClellan, Councilmember, City of Norfolk, VA

Joe Fitzgibbon, Representative, Washington House of Representatives
Dow Constantine, County Executive, King County, WA
Lisa Herbold, Councilmember, City of Seattle, WA
Teresa Mosqueda, Councilmember, City of Seattle, WA
Chris Roberts, Councilmember, City of Shoreline, WA

LaTonya Johnson, Senator, Wisconsin State Senate
Chris Larson, Senator, Wisconsin State Senate
Brad Pfaff, Senator, Wisconsin State Senate
Janis Ringhand, Senator, Wisconsin State Senate
Kelda Roys, Senator, Wisconsin State Senate,
Jeff Smith, Senator, Wisconsin State Senate
Lena C. Taylor, Senator, Wisconsin State Senate
Robert Wirch, Senator, Wisconsin State Senate
Jimmy Anderson, Representative, Wisconsin House of Representatives
Samba Baldeh, Representative, Wisconsin House of Representatives
Jill Billings, Representative, Wisconsin House of Representatives
David Bowen, Representative, Wisconsin House of Representatives
Jonathan Brostoff, Representative, Wisconsin House of Representatives
Marisabel Cabrera, Representative, Wisconsin House of Representatives
Sue Conley, Representative, Wisconsin House of Representatives
Dave Considine, Representative, Wisconsin House of Representatives
Steve Doyle, Representative, Wisconsin House of Representatives
Dora Drake, Representative, Wisconsin House of Representatives
Jodi Emerson, Representative, Wisconsin House of Representatives
Evan Goyke, Representative, Wisconsin House of Representatives
Gary Hebl, Representative, Wisconsin House of Representatives
Dianne Hesselbein, Representative, Wisconsin House of Representatives
Francesca Hong, Representative, Wisconsin House of Representatives
Gordon Hintz, Representative, Wisconsin House of Representatives
Beth Meyers, Representative, Wisconsin House of Representatives
Nick Milroy, Representative, Wisconsin House of Representatives
Greta Neubauer, Representative, Wisconsin House of Representatives
Tod Ohnstad, Representative, Wisconsin House of Representatives

Sondy Pope, Representative, Wisconsin House of Representatives
Daniel Riemer, Representative, Wisconsin House of Representatives
Sara Rodriguez, Representative, Wisconsin House of Representatives
Katrina Shankland, Representative, Wisconsin House of Representatives
Kristina Shelton, Representative, Wisconsin House of Representatives
Christine Sinicki, Representative, Wisconsin House of Representatives
Lee Snodgrass, Representative, Wisconsin House of Representatives
Mark Spreitzer, Representative, Wisconsin House of Representatives
Lisa Subeck, Representative, Wisconsin House of Representatives
Sylvia Ortiz-Velez, Representative, Wisconsin House of Representatives
Robyn Vining, Representative, Wisconsin House of Representatives
Don Vruwink, Representative, Wisconsin House of Representatives
Felesia A. Martin, County Supervisor, Milwaukee County, WI
Megan O'Halloran, School Board Member, City of Milwaukee, WI
Leah Schreiber Johnson, School Board Member, City of Oak Creek, WI

Rosemary Ketchum, Councilmember, City of Wheeling, WV



THE UNITED STATES
CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

June 29, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader, United States Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, Room S-230
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader, United States Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, Room S-224
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

We write today to advocate on behalf of states, territories, counties, cities and towns, all of which are experiencing historic budget shortfalls as they continue to respond to the pandemic. In less than two days, the budget years for 45 states and thousands of local governments will begin. Unlike the federal government, these state and local governments must begin their fiscal years on time and with a balanced budget. If the Senate fails to act immediately to support state and local governments, our nation's recovery from the pandemic-induced recession will suffer and millions of Americans will needlessly be harmed.

Previous federal bills responding to COVID-19 provided important support, many through well-established grant programs, yet none allow for the replacement of billions of lost revenue due to COVID-19. More robust and direct stimulus is needed for state and local governments to both rebuild the economy and maintain essential services in education, health care, emergency operations, public safety and more.

As we move closer to the end of the budget year, furloughs and job cuts are on the table for many states and localities. These jobs losses not only affect the provision of government services, but also add to state unemployment. The damage will get far worse without federal assistance, forcing drastic cuts that will further delay and cancel infrastructure projects, as at least 26 states have announced construction delays for transportation projects. The loss of such projects will ripple through states' construction industry, delaying recovery further.

State and local governments also purchase goods and services which add to the nation's output, and in 2019, state and local governments' purchases accounted for 11 percent of GDP. When these activities slow down, there is an effect on the nation's economy. Alarming, CBO's June letter on its forecast of Gross Domestic Product for 2020 and

2021 found that “state and local governments’ purchases of goods and services fell by \$350 billion, making up 9 percent of the total decline in GDP.

Nearly 15 million Americans are employed by state and local governments. Teachers, first responders and emergency medical service workers are on the front lines of this crisis doing the essential work of the country. Government employment continues to suffer substantial losses with over 1.6 million state and local government jobs lost since March.

Leaders in Washington have expressed support for flexible fiscal aid to states and localities of all sizes. Yet months have gone by and our communities continue to suffer. Americans have a history of standing together in times of crisis and must do so now.

Sincerely,

Accelerate Indiana Municipalities

ACT, Inc.

AECOM

Alabama League of Municipalities

Alaska Municipal League

Alkermes

American Association of Port Authorities

American Beverage Association

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees

American Federation of Teachers

American Gas Association

American Hotel & Lodging Association

American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR)

American Planning Association

American Public Human Services Association

American Public Power Association

American Public Works Association (APWA)

American Shore & Beach Preservation Association

American Society of Civil Engineers

AmeriHealth Caritas

Anthem

Arizona Association of Counties

Arkansas Municipal League

Arthritis Foundation

Association County Commissioners of Georgia

Association of Arkansas Counties

Association of County Commissions of Alabama

Association of Financial Guaranty Insurers

Association of Indiana Counties

Association of Minnesota Counties

Association of Oregon Counties

Association of Washington Cities

Axxess

BrightSpring Health Services

California Marine Affairs & Navigation Conference (CMANC)

California State Association of Counties

Center for Public Safety Management
Central Gulf Coast Chapter of the American Shore & Beach Preservation Association
CGI Communications, Inc.
Coast Builders Coalition
Colorado Municipal League
CompTIA - Computing Technology Industry Association
Connecticut Conference of Municipalities
County Commissioners Association of Ohio
County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania
County Commissioners Association of West Virginia
County Executives of America
Credit Union National Association (CUNA)
Data Center Coalition
Delaware League of Local Governments
Dexcom
Esri, Inc
Florida Association of Counties
Florida League of Cities
Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association
Georgia Municipal Association
GIIA
GoRail
Government Finance Officers Association
Great Lakes Dredge & Dock
IBM
Illinois Municipal League
Illinois State Association of Counties
Institute for Building Technology and Safety
International Association of Emergency Managers
International City/County Management Association
International Municipal Lawyers Association, Inc.
Internet Association
Intuit Inc.
Iowa League of Cities
Iowa State Association of Counties
ITC Holdings Inc.
Jersey Shore Partnership
Johnson & Johnson
Kansas Association of Counties
Kentucky Association of Counties
Land O'Lakes Inc.
Large Public Power Council
League of Arizona Cities and Towns
League of California Cities
League of Kansas Municipalities
League of Minnesota Cities
League of Nebraska Municipalities
League of Oregon Cities
League of Wisconsin Municipalities
Louisiana Municipal Association
Magna

Maine Municipal Association
Maryland Association of Counties
Maryland Municipal League
Massachusetts Coastal Coalition
Massachusetts Municipal Association
Michigan Association of Counties
Michigan Municipal League
Mississippi Association of Supervisors
Mississippi Municipal League
Motorola Solutions, Inc.
Municipal Association of South Carolina
NACBHDD and NARMH
National Association for County Community and Economic Development
National Association for Home Care & Hospice
National Association of Black County Officials (NABCO)
National Association of Bond Lawyers
National Association of County Collectors, Treasurers & Finance Officers (NACCTFO)
National Association of Counties
National Association of County Engineers
National Association of County Human Services Administrators
National Association of Home Builders
National Association of Regional Councils
National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers
National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO)
National Association of State Treasurers
National Association of Towns and Townships
National Community Development Association
National Conference of State Legislatures
National Governors Association
National Emergency Management Association
National League of Cities
National Marine Manufacturers Association
National Organization of Black County Officials, Inc (NOBCO)
National Workforce Association
Nebraska Association of County Officials
Netsmart
Nevada Association of Counties
New Jersey Association of Counties
New Jersey State League of Municipalities
New Mexico Counties
New York State Association of Counties
New York State Conference of Mayors and Municipal Officials
NIC
North Carolina League of Municipalities
North Dakota Association of Counties
North Dakota League of Cities
NWEA
Ohio Municipal League
Oklahoma Municipal League
PACENation

Partnership for Medicaid Home-Based Care
Pennsylvania Municipal League
Police Jury Association of Louisiana
Port of Walla Walla
ResCare Workforce Services
Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Siemens
Sourcewell
South Dakota Municipal League
Southern California Edison
Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America (TIAA)
TechNet
Tennessee County Services Association
Tennessee Municipal League
Texas Association of Counties
Texas Municipal League
The Coca-Cola Company
The Community Outcomes Fund at Maycomb Capital
The Council of State Governments
The Design-Build Institute of America
The United States Conference of Mayors
three+one
Thrive Skilled Pediatric Care
U.S. Tire Manufacturers Association (USTMA)
U.S. Water Alliance
United Counties Council of Illinois
Utah League of Cities and Towns
Vermont League of Cities and Towns
Virginia Association of Counties
Virginia Municipal League
Washington City/County Management Association (WCMA)
Washington State Association of Counties
West Virginia Association of Counties
West Virginia Municipal League
Wisconsin Counties Association
Wisconsin County Highway Association
Wyoming Association of Municipalities
Wyoming County Commissioners Association



February 3, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy,

On behalf of the Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA), we strongly urge Congress to provide a minimum of \$350 billion in supplemental assistance to state and local governments in any future stimulus package enacted in response to the COVID pandemic. These funds will ensure state and local governments have the resources they need to weather the pandemic by providing continuity of essential services and support to the citizens and businesses in their community.

SIIA is the only professional organization connecting more than 700 data, financial information, education technology, specialized content and publishing, and health technology companies. Our diverse members manage the global financial markets, develop software that solves today's challenges through technology, provide critical information that helps inform global businesses large and small, and innovate for better health care and personal wellness outcomes.

Historically, the relationship between the federal government and the states has ensured that Americans and their businesses have the resources and critical public services they need to be successful. This relationship has proven crucial in the national response to the COVID pandemic. The pandemic has caused significant financial distress to state and local governments in lost revenue, hampering the economic security of Americans and impacting their access to needed safety net programs, educational opportunities, and public safety and security resources. The full impact on state and local budgets is yet to be seen but experts predict strained administrative resources, resulting from significant budgetary gaps from a decreased tax base, and other revenue-generating public authorities.

On behalf of SIIA and our members, we strongly support congressional action to provide additional, needed resources to state and local governments to ensure budgetary solvency, a continuity of educational services, and expanded access to critical infrastructure such as broadband, IT services, cybersecurity infrastructure, and other vital systems. The strongest possible investment in state and local communities is a necessary part of COVID pandemic relief efforts and should be included in any stimulus or relief package negotiated by Congress.

Thank you for your work to ensure that Americans have the resources they need in this unprecedented time. Should you have any questions, please contact Carl Schonander at cschonander@siia.net.

Sincerely,

Jeff Joseph
President

CC: Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney, House Committee on Oversight and Reform;
Ranking Member James Comer, House Committee on Oversight and Reform



City of Seattle

Mayor Jenny A. Durkan

February 11, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Leader McCarthy,

On behalf of the City of Seattle, we urge you to take immediate action on comprehensive coronavirus relief legislation, which must include direct fiscal assistance to cities as outlined in President Biden's American Rescue Plan. This critical aid will help us eradicate the virus and create a foundation for sustainable and inclusive recovery.

We appreciate the invaluable aid that our federal partners have provided to date, however, the immense scale and growing needs facing our city are outstripping our local resources as the unprecedented global health pandemic continues.

Nevertheless, the City of Seattle remains focused on addressing the devastating and enduring impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. Our immediate charge remains to help mitigate the COVID-19 virus, keep our local businesses alive, and serve our most vulnerable residents and frontline heroes. Among the programs that could continue with direct local assistance:

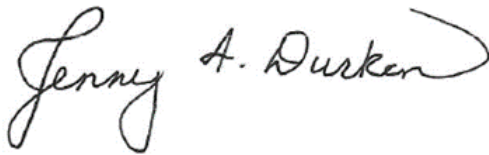
- Support for local food banks and grocery vouchers
- Small Business Stabilization
- Non-FEMA eligible activities for testing and vaccines
- Rental assistance and eviction prevention

American cities and our essential workers have been serving at the frontlines of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic for nearly a year. Despite immense fiscal pressure, local governments oversaw those efforts, while trying to maintain essential services and providing lifelines for

residents and businesses who have been crippled by the economic crash. The \$350 billion in direct relief to state and local governments included in President Biden's American Rescue Plan would allow Seattle and cities across the country to preserve critical public sector jobs and help drive our economic recovery.

We urge Congress and White House to act prudently and expeditiously to ensure our state and local governments have the resources and flexibility to overcome this national emergency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenny A. Durkan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Jenny" is written in a larger, more prominent script, followed by "A. Durkan" in a slightly smaller, more compact script. The signature ends with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke that curves upwards at the end.

Mayor Jenny A. Durkan

Seattle, Washington

cc: Seattle Congressional Delegation; House Oversight Committee



ROSEBUD SIOUX TRIBE

PO Box 430

Rosebud, SD 57570

Phone: 605.747.2381

Fax: 605.747.2905

Website: rosebudsiouxtribe-nsn.gov

Rodney Bordeaux, **President**
Scott Herman, **Vice President**
Stephan DeNoyer III, **Treasurer**
Louis Wayne Boyd, **Secretary**
Edward Clairmont, **Sergeant-at-Arms**

February 2, 2021

The Honorable John Thune
U.S. Senator - South Dakota
511 Senate Dirksen Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Rounds
U.S. Senator - South Dakota
502 Senate Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: The Next COVID-19 Relief Bill

Dear Senator Thune and Rounds:

On behalf of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, I write to express our strongest support for additional COVID-19 Relief through the Biden American Rescue Plan. As always, we are aware of and appreciate your hard work to provide leadership from Congress in these difficult times. We are aware of the bi-partisan debate, and we want to let you know that here on the ground, we need immediate help. Fighting the COVID-19 Pandemic is the moral equivalent of war, and America is approaching 500,000 deaths, more than World War II.

RESPECT THE CONSTITUTION & TREATIES—CONDEMN THE INSURRECTION

Our Indian nations and tribes work with the United States on a nation-to-nation basis pursuant to our 1851 and 1868 treaties. In treaties, our Indian nations pledged that we shall pursue the path of peace and friendship. Through our treaties, our Lakota people expressly reserved our treaty rights when we became citizens. See 1868 Treaty, Section 16; 8 U.S.C. sec. 1401(b). We oppose and condemn the misguided insurrection against the United States Capitol that occurred on January 6, 2021, as you do. We promote reasonable solutions to America's challenges, such as our environmental opposition to the KXL Pipeline. Our Lakota people serve in the Armed Forces at the highest rate of any People in America to uphold the Constitution and our treaties.

NEED FOR STATE, LOCAL AND TRIBAL CORONAVIRUS RELIEF

Indian nations and tribes have suffered disease, serious injury and death from the COVID-19 Coronavirus. To fight the Coronavirus Pandemic, we closed many of our tribal

government offices and agencies, schools, public institutions, and tribal and tribal member business enterprises. We have lost substantial revenue, our normal tribal government operations have been sidelined, small businesses have suffered, our tribal members lost jobs and careers, and our elders, adults and youth have suffered serious injury and death. We have faithfully sought to follow the CDC guidelines to protect our Lakota people and our neighbors. From an Economic Injury standpoint, many Indian nations and tribes have lost 35% or more of our Tribal Government Revenue. It is essential that the next bill include State-Local-Tribal Coronavirus Relief.

Our Tribal Government needs further COVID-19 Relief Funding from Congress, and we call upon you to recognize our sacrifices and difficulties as we fight the COVID-19 virus through unity, focus and determination. We urge Congress to fund President Biden's initiative to Rescue America, Fight the Coronavirus, Vaccinate America, Re-Open Schools, Provide Unemployment, Small Business and Agriculture Relief, and provide \$1400 in individual Coronavirus Relief. Indian nations need Emergency Help! Please help us.

Please support full funding for the Biden Administration's COVID-19 Relief Fund.
The Biden proposal includes \$20 Billion for Indian tribes, and distribution criteria should include the basic principles of Indian law and policy:

- ***Indian Self-Determination Policy: Lost Revenues, Basic Services, Infrastructure.*** Congress should recognize the authority and capacity to make basic decisions about community welfare. Tribal Governments should be able to use CRF funds to address lost revenue, provide for tribal governments programs and services, including health care, police and fire protection, water and sewer, and address basic infrastructure needs including rehabilitation and operation hospitals, health clinics, quarantine housing, emergency medical facilities, and drug and alcohol treatment to fight COVID-19, slow and stop the Spread;
- ***Tribal Governments as Federally Recognized Indian Tribes.*** The next COVID Relief legislative package should apply extend Tribal Government funding for Indian tribes, as defined by the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act, 25 U.S.C. secs. 5131—32, Public Law 103-454 (1994).
- ***The Treaty Canon of Construction*** should be applied for all Tribal Government provisions in the COVID-19 Acts, that is: As set forth in Pub. L. 113-168, §2(c), Sept. 26, 2014, 128 Stat. 1884: "Ambiguities ... shall be resolved in favor of Indian tribal governments and deference shall be given to Indian tribal governments for the programs administered and authorized by the tribe to benefit the general welfare of the tribal community." 26 U.S.C. sec. 139E note 2.

Tribal Government CRF Allocation. In developing an allocation formula for distributing Tribal Government COVID-19 Relief Funds, the Congress should consider the following elements:

- **Tribal Enrollment.** The Constitution recognizes “Indians not taxed” as citizens of Indian nations subject to primary tribal jurisdiction, and in our 1868 Treaty, our Sioux Nation tribes reserved our self-governing authority vis-à-vis tribal citizens and our tribal homeland. Tribal Citizenship is counted in Tribal Enrollment and reflects the political status of Indian tribes as self-governing nations, rather than the racial count of self-identified American Indians reflected in the Census.
- **Tribal Homelands.** Our treaty lands are reserved as our permanent home for the absolute and undisturbed use of our tribal citizens—in other words, our territory. In 18 U.S.C. sec. 1151, Congress recognizes our reservation and trust lands as Indian country. Our authority and responsibility to protect our homelands should be considered, just as state and local government jurisdictions are considered in the allocation of CRF funding.
- **Lost Revenues.** Tribal Governments have lost taxes, license fees, lease payments, and tribal government enterprise revenues. After all, these revenues are a baseline for tribal government operations and they deserve consideration.
- **Economic Disadvantage.** Our Sioux Nation tribes have been impacted by endemic poverty, severe unemployment and have been home to the poorest Counties in America for 50 years. The United States has a trust responsibility to address our harsh living conditions during the National Pandemic because these conditions pre-existing conditions lead to more severe suffering, injury and death.

The COVID-19 Pandemic and National Public Health Emergency is not over. The UK and other virus mutations threaten to re-ignite the Pandemic, with more virulent, contagious and deadly strains on the horizon from South Africa and who knows where else.

CONTINUING EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR AGENCIES: Indian nations and tribes need further Federal funding for the Bureau of Indian Affairs Law Enforcement, Essential Services and Aid to Tribal Government, Bureau of Indian Education Schools, Indian Health Service and other essential services, including water, electricity, quarantine housing, nursing homes, assisted living and elderly centers, and emergency medical centers, public health and safety, fire protection, housing, rental assistance, water, sanitation and sewer services, among other things. (We attach the NCAI request to detail Agency programs).

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration. Please support the Indian provisions in the next COVID-19 Relief Package.

Sincerely,



President Rodney M. Bordeaux



February 9, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Byron Donalds
United States House of Representatives
523 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Donalds:

On the behalf of the Florida Association of Counties, I humbly urge your support of state and local aid in the next COVID-19 relief package. The nearly 40,000 county elected officials and more than 3 million county employees across the nation remain focused on addressing the devastating, and unfortunately, enduring impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including through our county public health officials, health care providers, public safety personnel and other essential frontline leaders. As this unprecedented global health pandemic continues to evolve and reach further into our communities, we urge your bipartisan support and immediate passage of the local government aid outlined in the President's American Rescue Plan.

We want to acknowledge the invaluable aid that our federal partners have already provided in previous bills. These resources were invested prudently in our local public health mitigation and response, such as PPE, testing and contact tracing, for essential workers and the public. As part of our local community services, counties also concentrated on service gaps for our most vulnerable residents and small businesses, especially the basic nutrition and shelter needs of our seniors, youth, sick and unemployed. Broadband access for school children and remote workers, along with job placement and workforce training for the unemployed, remain other areas of significant focus. Unfortunately, far too many counties never received any, or very limited, federal resources, based on statutory population thresholds and state sub-allocation decisions. Unfortunately, the pressing challenges and needs facing our counties continue to outstrip our local resources.

Even with these much-appreciated federal dollars, the immense scale and growing needs facing our counties are far outstripping our local resources. While most of the federal dialogue has focused on the outlook of state and local revenues, it is important to recognize the historic community and resident needs that are far beyond normal times. This unprecedented pandemic has killed more than 400,000 Americans, dislocated a record number of workers, crushed countless small businesses, and impacted our children's learning and growth. In most places, it has also stretched, beyond our wildest imaginations, county resources and services for public health, substance abuse and mental health, child protective care, coroners and medical examiners, housing, food and nutrition, and broadband access.

MELISSA MCKINLAY
PRESIDENT
PALM BEACH

RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.
PRESIDENT ELECT
WAKULLA

LEE CONSTANTINE
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
SEMINOLE

BILL TRUAX
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
CHARLOTTE

NICK MADDOX
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
LEON

VIRGINIA "GINGER"
DELEGAL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



In response, county officials have dug into local financial reserves, reallocated local resources, and have made hard decisions to cut non-essential services and staff to stay afloat during these difficult times.

County leaders are serious, prudent stewards of public dollars. We remain very concerned about mounting federal debt. Yet, we also understand that we must overcome this devastating pandemic together, now, so we can make the smart investments needed to pursue a brighter, more resilient future for all our residents and communities. As Henry Kissinger asserted, “The historic challenge for leaders is to manage the crisis while building the future.”

As important ground-level partners in our nation’s intergovernmental system, county leaders are not looking for an unlimited federal handout. We support coordinating a stronger federal-state-local framework that ensures federal resources are invested appropriately, with a strategic focus on COVID- 19 impacts and future community resiliency. We embrace robust public accountability and transparency standards, and we welcome the opportunity to discuss any necessary safeguards.

We know that the only way to unlock the full economic potential and protect the wellbeing of Florida and the nation is to overcome the current global public health emergency. Our immediate charge remains to help mitigate the COVID-19 virus, keep our local businesses alive, and serve our most vulnerable residents and frontline heroes. County leaders are also faithful to the American tradition of building back better after a major national crisis. The reality is that this will take additional federal investments that leverage and supplement the local efforts of our counties and local tax base.

We respectfully urge Congress and the White House to work together in a bipartisan manner to ensure our county leaders – and our local communities – have the resources, decision-making powers and flexibility necessary to overcome this massive national emergency and to ensure our nation is better prepared for future pandemics and disasters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melissa McKinlay". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Melissa" and last name "McKinlay" clearly legible.

Commissioner Melissa McKinlay
Palm Beach County
President, Florida Association of Counties

August 6, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-30, The Capitol
Washington DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell:

PLEASE reconsider your stance against direct funding our nations' cities, towns and villages. We are dealing with this national health crisis every day at the local level. But we need the partnership with our federal government, ***no more than ever.***

Here in my city of Easton, PA, like most cities across the country, we deliver public safety and essential services to our residents with a balanced budget – every year! Easton is experiencing a loss of revenue this year of more than \$5 million. We laid off 30% of our workforce, postponed needed capital projects and reduced all expenditures to emergency purchases only and have lowered the revenue gap this year to approximately \$2 million – and next year seems to be more of the same.

On top of that, yesterday we experienced severe flooding from the tropical storm Isaias.

Please Senator, we need direct funding to our local governments. Our records stand for themselves. Cities are managed with a fiscal responsibility that has been cited by financial regulators as being the most efficient and well-managed governments. Every year we balance our budgets, despite rising costs, by either raising taxes or cutting needed services.

We are cut to the bone. If we do not receive direct assistance from our federal partner we will be forced to layoff and reduce our police, fire and first responders. And without direct federal aid to cities there is no economic recovery to our nation.

Respectfully yours,

Salvatore J. Panto, Jr.
Mayor

Township of Cheltenham

Montgomery County, Pennsylvania

Board of Commissioners

Daniel B. Norris, *President*
Baron B. Holland, *Vice President*
Matthew D. Areman
Irv Brockington
Brad M. Pransky
Ann L. Rappoport
Mitchell Zygmund-Felt

Township Manager

Bryan T. Havir



Administration Building

8230 Old York Road
Elkins Park, PA 19027-1589

Phone: 215-887-1000
FAX: 215-887-1561
www.cheltenhamtownship.org

May 13, 2020

U.S. Senator Pat Toomey
Attn: Christopher Gahan, Chief of Staff
248 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Support of HR 6800- The Heroes Act

Dear Senator Toomey:

As Congress considers additional federal assistance packages in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is critical that you include direct relief to cities, towns and villages. Businesses and community organizations across our country depend on the economic strength and vitality of municipalities. Not only do our nation's cities provide an anchor for local economic development, they also provide the essential services that businesses depend on to ensure we remain competitive, including access to clean water, public safety, reliable infrastructure and a strong workforce base. Without a lifeline to recover and restore local economic activity, cities, towns and villages will be forced to make cuts to essential services that will have a ripple effect across the public and private sectors.

For organizations such as Cheltenham Township, based in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania, it is because of our strong community partnership that we can thrive. The strong leadership of our local elected officials and the partnership they have provided to local businesses is critical to our success. If cities fail to thrive, we all fail to thrive. We know that you understand the importance of this relationship in our great state of Pennsylvania and we hope that we can rely on your support for legislation that includes:

- \$500 billion over two years of federal aid for local governments
- Fair and direct funding allocations to each and every local government, with no exclusions based on population
- Equal funding overall for municipal governments and county governments
- Maximum flexibility for the eligible use of funds to address the budget consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. Please contact Terry Fedorchak at 215-887-6200, ext. 112 or tfedorchak@cheltenham-township.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

Terry Fedorchak
Interim Township Manager

TF/aml

A Home Rule Charter Community



February 11, 2021

Dear Members of Congress:

We are writing as on behalf of Pennsylvania's municipalities to express our strong support for President Biden's American Rescue Plan which contains \$350 billion in aid to state and local governments.

It is clear the COVID-19 pandemic will leave Pennsylvania with long-term, negative social and economic impacts that we will be living with for years to come: long-term unemployment, education gaps, financially devastated and closed businesses, increased mental health issues, addiction, eviction, and most tragically the loss of loved-ones. All of these, coupled with the fact that our low-income and communities of color have disproportionately been effected by COVID-19, puts tremendous strain upon Pennsylvania's residents and communities at a time when we are just digging out from the Great Recession. Pennsylvania cannot afford to be set back another decade.

Our local governments, which are on the frontlines of delivering emergency and essential services, have also borne the brunt of these negative effects. We have had to furlough workers, freeze hiring, reduce our workforces through attrition, freeze capital budgets and assume the increased costs of responding to COVID-19 while our own workers are exposed to the virus. We are deeply concerned that the negative effects of COVID-19 will leave a structural deficit on our public finances, as well as weaken the strength of our non-profit and business sectors. And, now we are being called upon to assist in the most important phase of all—vaccinating our residents.

We therefore appeal to you to adopt the President's Plan which includes \$350 billion of aid to state and local governments. It is absolutely essential that this aid come directly to local governments and be flexible in its use, including assistance to address strained budgets and the social and economic impacts of the pandemic.

We strongly and sincerely urge your adoption of President Biden's American Rescue Plan. Any questions or comments can be directed to Rick Schuettler, Executive Director, at rschuettler@pml.org or Amy Sturges, Director of Governmental Affairs, at asturges@pml.org.

Sincerely,
The Pennsylvania Municipal League Executive Committee

Councilmember Derek Green, Philadelphia
Mayor Danene Sorace, Lancaster
Mayor Michael Lombardo, Pittston
Richard J. Schuettler, Executive Director
Mayor Doug Baker, Franklin

Mayor Derek Slaughter, Williamsport
Mayor Christopher Frye, New Castle
Mayor Ron Strouse, Doylestown
Mayor Paige Cagnetti, Scranton
Mayor Matthew Pacifico, Altoona

Membership List

Allegheny Township
Allentown
Altoona

Bedford Borough
Bellefonte Borough
Bethel Park Municipality
Bethlehem
Bradford
Butler

Carbondale
Carlisle Borough
Chambersburg Borough
Coatesville
College Township
Corry
Crafton Borough
Cranberry Township

Derry Township
Dormont Borough
Doylestown Borough
DuBois

East Stroudsburg
Easton
Ebensburg Borough
Edinboro Borough
Ellwood City Borough
Erie
Etna Borough

Farrell
Ferguson Township
Forest Hills Borough
Franklin

Gettysburg Borough
Green Tree Borough
Greensburg

Halfmoon Township
Hampton Township
Harrisburg
Harris Township
Hatboro Borough
Hazleton
Hermitage
Hollidaysburg Borough
Homestead Borough

Indiana Borough

Jenkintown Borough
Kingston Municipality
Kutztown Borough

Lancaster
Latrobe
Lebanon
Lemoyne Borough
Lewisburg Borough
Ligonier Township
Lock Haven
Lower Burrell
Lower Merion Township
Lower Paxton Township

Malvern Borough
Mansfield Borough
Marcus Hook Borough
McCandless
Media Borough
Millersville Borough
Milton Borough
Monessen
Monongahela
Moon Township
Mt. Oliver Borough
Muhlenberg Township
Murrysville Municipality

Nanticoke
New Castle
New Kensington
Norristown Municipality
North Huntingdon Twp.

Oakmont Borough

Parker
Patton Township
Paxtang Borough
Peters Township
Philadelphia
Phoenixville Borough
Pittsburgh
Pittston
Plainfield Township
Plum Borough
Pottsville
Reading
Reserve Township
Robinson Township

Scranton
Sewickley Borough
Shamokin
Sharon
South Fayette Township
St. Marys
State College Borough
Steelton Borough
Sunbury

Tarentum Borough
Titusville

Upper Chichester Twp.
Upper Darby Township
Upper Providence Twp.
Upper St. Clair Township

Warren
Washington
Wellsboro Borough
West Chester Borough
West Norriton Township
Wilkes-Barre
Williamsport

Zelienople Borough

Count = 114 Members

Updated 2/11/2021



KATE BROWN
Governor

January 21, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Leaders McConnell and McCarthy,

Thank you for your efforts to reach bipartisan agreement on an emergency coronavirus relief package in December, which is delivering desperately needed funds to combat and inoculate against the virus and ensure Oregonians have the resources to continue to weather this storm. This bill provided a timely and much needed down payment to meet the needs of our constituents during this health and economic crisis.

While hope is on the horizon, we know that this pandemic and the economic fallout are far from over. That was echoed by last month's jobs report that showed the economic recovery backtracking for the first time since April 2020, and it demonstrated how hard this pandemic has impacted people of color. At the same time, we are in the darkest days of the surge. To change course, it will require significant resources to turn the tide on the economic and health crisis, safely reopen schools, provide necessary assistance to families, and ramp up vaccine delivery to get shots into arms as quickly as possible.

As you consider additional steps to provide relief during this pandemic, I urge you to prioritize the following outstanding needs of the State of Oregon:

State and Local Aid

States have been on the frontlines of managing the response to the coronavirus pandemic—including PPE, testing, contact tracing, and now vaccinations—while facing an increasingly challenging situation with rising costs and declining tax revenues. However, as you know, the most recent relief package did not include additional assistance to states, local governments, and tribes. Following nine consecutive years of budget growth, states saw revenue fall in fiscal 2020,

and greater declines are expected in fiscal 2021. Many states have tried to hold off on making budget cuts as long possible, but with balanced budget requirements, states will inevitably have to make difficult budget decisions without substantial additional aid.

I want to be clear. This is not about bailing out mismanaged states, and it is not a red state-blue state problem. The coronavirus outbreak has affected the economy of virtually every state. Additional funding will ensure we can continue to provide vital services, keep frontline public workers like teachers and firefighters on the job, and avoid a weak recovery.

I urge Congress to provide at least \$350 billion in assistance to states and localities and allow it to be used to address revenue shortfalls. I also strongly recommend that the funding be provided directly to eligible localities, not placing the additional administrative burden on states to distribute local funding. Lastly, additional funding for tribal governments is also critically important.

Funding for vaccine distribution and testing and tracing

While Congress provided significant funding for testing, tracing, COVID mitigation, and vaccine distribution in the most recent bill, Oregon projects that the funding will only sustain operations at the current pace for approximately six months. We must work to protect our most vulnerable including the elderly, essential workers, and historically marginalized communities. It will require more resources to make sure these populations are educated about the COVID-19 virus and how to fight it.

Unemployment Insurance

The most recent relief bill expanded eligibility and extended the number of weeks unemployed workers can receive benefits. However, these benefits are set to expire in mid-March. And with the projection of even tougher days ahead, many people will continue to be unable to work. We cannot let up on assistance. I urge Congress to provide \$600 in weekly federal benefits to help Oregonians get through these difficult times and tie the continuation of UI benefits to economic conditions. Additional UI administration funding is also necessary to deliver the UI system of benefits.

Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP)

Further increasing the FMAP, and automatically adjusting it to the depth and duration of the economic downturn, will ensure additional federal funding is available to effectively respond to health care needs of Oregon's most vulnerable populations.

Governors Broadband Fund

High-speed, reliable internet connectivity has become essential during this pandemic for people to follow public health guidelines, access health care via telehealth, participate in e-learning, and work remotely. However, Oregon lacks a robust broadband infrastructure – especially in the rural and frontier parts of our state. While Congress made significant broadband investments in the most recent COVID relief package, little direct funding was available for states, many of which have worked to expand broadband availability during this pandemic. With a dedicated State Broadband Office, Oregon is well positioned to rapidly close the digital divide. I urge

Congress to establish a broadband program similar to the Governors Emergency Education Relief (GEER) fund to support the expansion of state broadband.

Education Funding

The December funding for schools and higher education was an important down payment to safely get our students and teachers back in the classroom and/or facilitate remote learning, but additional funding is necessary to meet the challenges of this crisis. I urge Congress to provide additional flexible resources for K-12, higher education and the Governors Emergency Education Relief (GEER) fund.

Nutrition Assistance

Many families—and particularly families of color—continue to struggle with food insecurity. The most recent COVID bill made an important down payment on nutrition programs, but additional action is necessary to help solve the deepening hunger crisis in American. Congress should extend the 15 percent Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) through the economic crisis and temporarily suspend the state matching requirement, invest additional resources in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), and create a Temporary Assistance for Needy Families emergency fund and expand eligibility while relaxing work requirements and time limits.

Childcare

Oregon continues to experience a childcare shortage, as providers struggle to stay open and families face difficulties affording the costs. As a childcare desert before this pandemic, we need to build back our state childcare systems. Without additional relief as the pandemic rages on, many providers will be forced to close or unable to reopen, resulting in a slowed recovery if families are unable to return to work or continue their education. I urge Congress to provide additional childcare stabilization funds to ensure providers can keep the doors open, provide additional investment and extension to obligate funds through the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) program, provide additional investment through the Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) program, and increase tax credits to families to cover the cost of childcare.

Housing Assistance

Congress took a crucial step in creating and seeding emergency housing assistance in its most recent bill. However, renters, homeowners, and landlords are still at risk of falling behind on payments, which could lead to a wave of evictions and foreclosures and increase homelessness. Congress should extend and expand the eviction and foreclosure moratorium, provide additional emergency assistance to renters and landlords, and fund states and localities to offer emergency housing for those at risk of homelessness.

Small Business

Many small business owners in Oregon and across the country have had to adapt to keep their business alive as the pandemic drags on. Others are operating at limited capacity or have shuttered completely. These businesses provide local tax revenue and jobs and are critical to the vibrancy and livability of their communities. The Small Business Administration's Paycheck

Protection Program (PPP) and Economic Injury Disaster Loans have been important lifelines for small business, especially minority-owned and women-owned business that have been closed off to traditional bank lending and credit programs. Additional aid through grants to hardest hit businesses in addition to small business financing programs are necessary to keep our Main Streets afloat.

Veterans

Veterans are severely impacted by the pandemic beyond healthcare needs. While Congress extended legislation for expanded housing supports to student veterans during the pandemic, gaps remain in their benefits due to the pandemic's effects on academic institutions. Additionally, state veterans' skilled nursing homes have experienced significant financial losses due to COVID-related costs and the inability to replenish funds as homes were unable to admit new residents. CARES Act funding proved essential to the survival of long term care facilities in 2020. Congress should consider ongoing COVID relief funding to all long term care facilities but especially to our state veterans homes.

Stimulus

The \$600 stimulus checks were an important, though inadequate, lifeline for families who have lost their jobs or seen their income plummet during this pandemic. An additional round of at least another \$1,400 in stimulus checks will help lessen the economic stress felt by American families and provide an important bridge toward our resilient recovery.

Emergency Paid Leave

Earlier last year, Congress passed federal paid sick leave for workers for a variety of scenarios related to COVID-19. However, this program was not extended in the most recent bill. Congress should reconstitute this important program for workers to ensure they are able to adequately care for themselves or their loved one without risk to their income or their job.

Thank you for your attention to the needs of Oregon.

Sincerely,



Governor Kate Brown

cc: Senator Ron Wyden
Senator Jeff Merkley
Representative Suzanne Bonamici
Representative Cliff Bentz
Representative Earl Blumenauer
Representative Peter DeFazio
Representative Kurt Schrader



February 5, 2021

Congressman Bob Gibbs
2217 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Gibbs:

I am writing to you today asking for your support for the \$350 billion direct relief included in President Biden's American Rescue Plan. These funds are vital for cities like Massillon to preserve critical public sector jobs and help drive our economic recovery.

Massillon like many cities is working to improve infrastructure, revitalize our downtown historic district, increase economic development and increase population in our community. Providing direct, flexible aid is the most efficient and immediate way to help our families and our city.

Your vote of support for this plan will keep Massillon moving forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathy Catazaro Perry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kathy" being the most prominent.

Kathy Catazaro Perry
Mayor



City of Lima, Ohio

50 Town Square Lima, Ohio 45801-4900

419/228-5462 Fax 419/221-5199

www.cityhall.lima.oh.us

David J. Berger, Mayor

February 4, 2021

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate President Chuck Schumer:

I write with a sense of great urgency on behalf of the citizens and organizational members of my community. The Covid 19 crisis has dramatically damaged individual well-being, crippled family circumstances, and sapped organizational vitality across a broad spectrum of entities, large and small, including churches, small businesses, non-profit charities, industries, hospitals, public sector agencies, theaters, schools, and of course city governments. Those persons and organizations left unaffected are few and far between. And the fact that there remain many months of continuing need to manage under constrained and socially distanced protocols creates the expectation that the damages already incurred will complex, grow and further threaten and devastate my community. The negative social and economic effects of COVID will be long lasting and structural for our community.

The irony is that only a year ago, January 2020, Lima, Ohio was experiencing an economic high point of the last 4 decades, with low unemployment, a surplus of jobs, exciting economic development projects, a balanced budget and very healthy carry-overs in the General Fund and proprietary funds of the city. The picture today is totally opposite. The ravages of Covid 19 must be understood in that context.

My purpose in writing is to urge immediate action on the local government assistance that is contained in President Biden's proposal for the federal response to Covid 19. Direct, flexible funding from the federal government to localities, large and small, must be made available in order to forestall long term damage which may take a generation to heal.

Please act immediately for all of us.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

David J. Berger
Mayor





CHRISTOPHER MABE
PRESIDENT
GERARD 'ROCKY' JOLLY
VICE PRESIDENT
KATHLEEN M. GERSPER
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Representative Jim Jordan
2056 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Feb. 5, 2021

Dear Representative Jordan:

On behalf of the 30,000 members of the Ohio Civil Service Employees Association/AFSCME Local 11, I urge you to support a coronavirus relief package that is based on President Biden's American Rescue Plan to provide aid as soon as possible.

Ohio and our country are suffering from one of the worst health and economic catastrophes ever. There have been nearly 450,000 deaths and millions of Americans have lost their jobs or are under-employed due to the pandemic. In Ohio, there have been over 900,000 COVID cases and more than 11,000 resulting deaths. The U.S. economy lost more than 22 million jobs at the height of the pandemic last year, including 350,000 in Ohio. According to the Economic Policy Institute, 26.8 million workers—15.8% of the workforce—are being directly hurt by the coronavirus crisis. People are struggling to buy food and other necessities. There is also an escalating housing crisis and many people are struggling to pay rent or their mortgage.

We must act quickly and boldly to get our country back on track. OCSEA/AFSCME Local 11 supports President Biden's \$1.9 trillion plan as a starting point for Congress to put together a robust economic recovery package. The plan includes \$600 billion to support public services, including \$350 billion in flexible aid to state and local governments, education funding, public transit funding, increased unemployment benefits, raising the minimum wage, direct cash payments, and eradicating the virus by providing funding for testing, contact tracing, vaccine distribution and PPE. Front-line workers like nurses, teachers, EMS, custodians, correctional officers, child care providers and others continued working throughout the pandemic keeping communities safe and healthy. Flexible, direct aid is now needed to avoid deep cuts in vital public services and more layoffs that we face due to a \$360 million dollar budget shortfall.

Ohio has had its share of challenges during the pandemic, including an outdated unemployment system that has caused big slow-downs in claims; prisons that are so short staffed prison employees must

work dangerous levels of overtime; and short staffing in the state and counties Departments of Health, which left the state flat-footed on its COVID response. To say nothing of the fact that we have tragically lost eight employees in the Ohio Depts. of Rehabilitation and Correction and Youth Services from COVID complications.

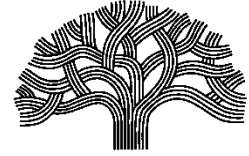
Now is not the time to withhold or restrict needed spending. Substantial investment is urgently needed to help Americans that are suffering and to stimulate economic recovery.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Mabe", with a stylized, flowing script.

Chris Mabe
President

CITY OF OAKLAND

1 FRANK H. OGAWA PLAZA • 3RD FLOOR • OAKLAND,
CALIFORNIA 94612



Office of the Mayor
Libby Schaaf
Mayor

(510) 238-3141
FAX: (510) 238-4731
TDD: (510) 238-3254

February 5, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the City of Oakland, I want to thank you for passing coronavirus legislation in December 2020, and urge you to include state and local funding in the next coronavirus relief package. State and local funding is key to any comprehensive legislative package, and is one of the most significant actions you can take to help our nation address its immediate needs due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We urge Congress to address the needs of local governments by providing direct aid to local governments, without placing states in an intermediary position. The formula should provide maximum flexibility, and should cover the widest set of eligible activities, which must include forgone revenue. Finally, we need robust assistance, and ask that Congress appropriate additional funds no less than the \$350 billion included in the American Rescue Plan.

Additionally, Oakland supports the third round of Economic Impact Payments included in the American Rescue Plan. However, we ask you to recognize that cost of living varies wildly across the nation, and factor this into the income levels at which direct financial support begins to phase out. Cost of living in Oakland is much higher than in other parts of the country, and if the phase out and cut off levels are set based on lower cost of living areas, Oakland residents and millions of other struggling families will be excluded. We strongly believe that all future Economic Impact Payments should take into account disparate costs of living across the nation.

Thank you for all your hard work and dedication during this crisis. I look forward to continuing to work with you in the coming months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Libby Schaaf". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "L" and "S".

Libby Schaaf
Mayor

CC: Congresswoman Barbara Lee
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Alex Padilla



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

ANDREW M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR

February 4, 2021

Dear New York State Congressional Delegation:

I want to thank you for all the good work you have done for our great state. I am sorry for the trauma and ugliness that you have had to endure in the United States Capitol. These are trying times, my friends, and they are also highly consequential.

I believe the COVID relief bill that you will pass shortly is paramount to this state and nation's recovery. The politics and incompetence of the past federal administration has brought the nation to the brink. The COVID relief package must reverse the damage and right the ship.

Unlike any other year, the federal COVID relief bill will determine New York's state budget. State and local deficits can only be satisfied by Washington. The New York state budget requires 15 billion dollars to avoid massive tax hikes, layoffs, education cuts and healthcare cuts. Every economist projects negative economic consequences if that occurs. Remember the prior COVID legislation passed under Trump – the so-called Cares Act bills – were not truly targeted to COVID relief but funded states virtually regardless of COVID need and thus were a boondoggle for Republican states and short changed Democratic states.

I would ask you to consider three points.

First, COVID relief should be targeted to the need created by COVID. This is an emergency response bill. When a state is hit by an earthquake, the nation funds that state. It does not fund all states. While COVID affected many states, it devastated a few. New York was ground zero for COVID. It was the federal negligence that allowed COVID to come to New York for months undetected. The damage done in New York was exponentially higher than any other state. It is insulting to New Yorkers for anyone to suggest the COVID relief bill should become a typical pork barrel exercise. Target federal assistance the way COVID targeted its victims. New York deserves a disproportionate amount of COVID relief because New York suffered a disproportionate amount of damage. By any metric, New York would receive a larger proportional share of President Biden \$350 billion in state and local aid. If Congress distributed the \$350 billion funding by the number of lives lost to COVID, New York State would receive \$20.7 billion and local governments would receive \$13.8 billion. If the distribution formula reflected COVID related unemployment, New York State would receive \$15.1 billion and local governments would receive \$10.1 billion. Ironically, even if Congress was wholly political and disregarded all legitimate need factors and distributed only by a state's population – which would

WE WORK FOR THE PEOPLE
PERFORMANCE ★ INTEGRITY ★ PRIDE

be a repulsive policy – New York State would still receive \$12.4 billion and local governments would receive \$8.3 billion.

To the extent the federal government needs revenue to fund COVID relief and reconstruction, it should raise taxes on the wealthy. Forcing an individual state to raise taxes to meet their need is compounding the injustice. In the new Zoom reality, people and businesses are more mobile and are already working remotely. Raising taxes in any one state puts that state at an economic disadvantage. The states' hit hardest by COVID, and which received insufficient aid from the Federal Cares Act funding, are Democratic states. A national tax increase avoids a race to the bottom among Democratic states. If New York does not receive \$15 billion to close the state deficit, we will have no option but to lay off workers, cut education and healthcare and raise taxes.

Second, Congress should avoid old school politics. The federal government directly funding schools, hospitals and local institutions is duplicative to state and local funding of these same entities and does more harm than good because those same entities will suffer state cuts, layoffs, and tax increases. Federal funding of schools through Title I does not address all regions of the state fairly. Likewise, funding hospitals directly by the federal government perverts state funding formulas that help hospitals in poor communities and safety net hospitals and aids wealthy well-endowed hospitals. Direct federal funding compounds this regressive policy by reducing the amount of funding state and local governments can provide to struggling schools and poor hospitals.

The simplest way to target funding equitably is to provide it through state and local governments. At a minimum, funding provided by the federal government should be an offset to state and local financing obligations and follow state formulas.

Third, the SALT legislation was unconstitutional and the first double taxation in history. New York State is still in litigation against the federal government to end SALT. Repeal is a priority as every month costs New Yorkers over \$1 billion in additional taxes. Every day SALT is not repealed costs New Yorkers almost \$34 million. It must be repealed now.

In sum, New York State paid a terrible price for COVID. Past federal efforts have only further hurt New York. The nation rejected Republican policies and we must not repeat, but rather correct, their mistakes. If New York State is forced to do layoffs, reduce funding to poor schools, reduce funding to safety net hospitals, and increase taxes we will see a situation go from bad to worse.

COVID-19 has hit thousands of homeowners and renters particularly hard. While eviction moratoriums put into place by my administration early on in the pandemic, and further extended in partnership with the legislature more recently, have staved off massive evictions and foreclosures, this approach is merely a stopgap. It is not possible for any state to address this crisis. Any recovery package passed by the Federal government must include a real solution to the looming eviction crisis and help New Yorkers struggling due to COVID-19 stay in their homes.

Finally, the restaurant industry, which is the lifeblood of New York, must be saved. For too long, restaurants and bars were forced to shutter as a result of COVID-19. The federal government must provide real financial support to restaurants statewide to ensure they are able to reopen and support the tens of thousands hardworking men and women they employ.

The state is poised to re-launch. We will lead the nation in the new green economy, rebuild our transportation system, provide accessible and affordable universal broadband and attract the economy of tomorrow. We need a federal partner that works with us and not against us. And now your leadership provides that opportunity.

Sincerely,



ANDREW M. CUOMO



February 4, 2021

Dear Representative Herrell:

On behalf of the 10,000 members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Council 18, I urge you to support a coronavirus relief package that is based on President Biden's American Rescue Plan to provide aid as soon as possible. On their behalf and the communities, we serve we urge you to support \$350 billion in urgently needed funding for states, local governments, tribes, and territories under consideration in the House Committee on Oversight and Reform as part of H. Con. Res. 11. New Mexico and our country are suffering from one of the worst health and economic catastrophes ever.

There have been nearly 450,000 deaths and millions of Americans have lost their jobs or are under-employed due to the pandemic. In New Mexico, there have been over 175,000 COVID cases and over 3,300 resulting deaths (see https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases_casesper100klast7days). The U.S. economy lost more than 22 million jobs at the height of the pandemic last year, including 65,800 in New Mexico—a loss of 7.6% of jobs (https://www.bls.gov/web/laus/statewide_otm_oty_change.htm). According to the [Economic Policy Institute](#), 26.8 million workers—15.8% of the workforce—are being directly hurt by the coronavirus crisis. People are struggling to buy food and other necessities. There is also an escalating housing crisis and many people are struggling to pay rent or their mortgage.

We must act quickly and boldly to get our country back on track. AFSCME Council 18 supports President Biden's \$1.9 trillion plan as a starting point for Congress to put together a robust economic recovery package. The plan includes \$600 billion to support public services, including \$350 billion in flexible aid to state and local governments, education funding, public transit funding, increased unemployment benefits, raising the minimum wage, direct cash payments, and eradicating the virus by providing funding for testing, contact tracing, vaccine distribution and PPE. Front-line workers like nurses, teachers, EMS, custodians, correctional officers, child care providers and others continued working throughout the pandemic keeping communities safe and healthy.

Flexible, direct aid is now needed to avoid deep cuts in vital public services. Local governments like Santa Fe and Rio Rancho have already had to furlough workers, taking money out of New Mexicans' pockets and endangering any recovery. Agency budgets have been flat and fallen behind the increased demand for services. New Mexico, which is one of the most fiscally responsible states in America, has had to run through its 27% reserves. Even as responsible as New Mexico has been, from reserves to pension reform, the state has suffered greatly <https://www.cbpp.org/research/state-budget-and-tax/states-grappling-with-hit-to-tax-collections>.

Now is not the time to withhold or restrict needed spending. Substantial investment is urgently needed to help Americans that are suffering and to stimulate economic recovery.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CDerr'.

Connie Derr
Executive Director, AFSCME Council 18
AFSCME International Vice President, Southwest Region

President
Kathy Maness
Councilmember
Lexington, South Carolina

First Vice President
Vince Williams
Mayor
Union City, Georgia

Second Vice President
Victoria Woodards
Mayor
Tacoma, Washington

Immediate Past President
Joe Buscaino
Councilmember
Los Angeles, California

**Chief Executive Officer/
Executive Director**
Clarence E. Anthony

February 11, 2021

The Honorable Carolyn Maloney,
Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James Comer,
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Maloney and Ranking Member Comer:

We write today to offer our strong support of the budget reconciliation language providing \$350 billion in flexible aid for our states, cities, counties, tribes, and territories. We thank you for your support in championing legislation for State and Local Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Funds, which would provide relief to America's state and local governments on the front lines of the coronavirus pandemic. This bill recognizes the damage this crisis has done to local government budgets and employment, and our role in mitigating the public health and economic impacts of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, including the essential frontline services we provide.

America's 19,000 cities, towns, and villages have seen their revenues plummet as a result of the pandemic while their expenses have risen sharply to fight the virus, help millions of people who lost their jobs, and support the local businesses that are struggling to keep open. Our research shows that municipal governments alone are still facing a \$90 billion shortfall for one-year revenues. This figure is only for municipalities and does not include any of the losses facing county, state, tribal, or territorial governments. This figure also does not reflect losses over multiple years. The \$65 billion for municipal governments in this legislation will reach every city, town, and village in every Congressional district. The difference between municipalities \$90 billion shortfall and the \$65 billion provided under this bill means there is little chance for aid to be allocated above any localities level of need.

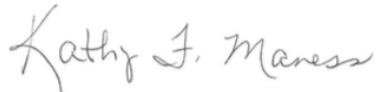
As their average revenue collection drops by 21 percent, municipalities of all sizes, and especially those of small to medium sized cities and towns, have been forced to freeze hiring, lay-off, or furlough local government employees and cut back on essential services to their residents. Municipalities are also delaying or canceling vital infrastructure projects to meet their balanced-budget obligations.

For local elected officials, this pandemic and the resulting economic crisis is not a partisan issue. In municipalities across this country, local officials are working desperately to get residents vaccinated, healthy, and back to work. Local government employees are truly on the frontlines, enforcing measures that protect residents from catching and spreading COVID-19. Local community and economic development departments are stabilizing households and small businesses harmed by losses from COVID-19. Local elected officials are making painful budget cuts to preserve essential day-to-day operations that sustain cities as economic engines and places of opportunity, while residents are relying more than ever on safety net programs that local governments are responsible for putting into action.

However, the dire reality is, the loss of more than 1.3 million front-line public service workers hurts our local government's ability to quickly get shots in arms, prevent our children from falling behind, and help save businesses by delivering essential services like sanitation, clean water and safe roads.

We appreciate the thoughtful work of your committee to ensure that aid to our states, cities, counties, tribes, and territories will be distributed as fairly and equitable as possible, so communities of all sizes can receive the help they need. The National League of Cities endorses this legislation and urges every Member of the House Oversight and Reform Committee to support its passage and swift enactment.

Sincerely,



Kathy Maness
NLC President
Councilmember, Lexington, South Carolina



Vince Williams
NLC First Vice President
Mayor, Union City, Georgia



Victoria Woodards
NLC Second Vice President
Mayor, Tacoma, Washington



Joe Buscaino
NLC Immediate Past President
Councilmember, 15th district, Los Angeles



Clarence Anthony
CEO and Executive Director
National League of Cities

February 11, 2021

The Honorable Kweisi Mfume
U.S. House of Representatives
2263 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-2007

Dear Congressman Mfume:

On behalf of the 3 million members of the National Education Association, who teach and support students in public schools and public colleges, and also include front-line workers providing other vital services, we urge you to include \$350 billion in aid to state, county, local, tribal, and territorial governments in final budget reconciliation language. Votes on this issue may be included in the NEA Report Card for the 117th Congress.

We are in the midst of a once in a century pandemic. On top of the untold pain and suffering families are experiencing as they lose loved ones to a deadly virus, we are also in the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. Educators have risen to this moment and demonstrated the resilience, creativity, and teamwork that we strive to cultivate in our students. Educators and all public service workers have often risked their own health and that of their families to provide crucial services to keep our communities going.

However, the jobs of the very public service workers we depend on are in jeopardy. Nationwide, over 1.4 million of these workers, including educators, have already been laid off due to budget shortfalls caused by the pandemic. Additional layoffs would be disastrous, especially for the schools and neighborhoods that were struggling with too few resources even before the pandemic. The burden would largely be shouldered by already under-served Black and Brown communities.

States, cities, counties, tribes, and territories are counting on Congress to help them bring people back to work and prevent additional layoffs and service cuts. We urge you to support the \$350 billion in funding for states, local governments, tribes, and territories under consideration in the House Committee on Oversight and Reform as part of H. Con. Res. 11. We also ask you to oppose any amendments that would lower or restrict this desperately needed \$350 billion.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association

■



City of Winston-Salem

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

POST OFFICE BOX 2511 • WINSTON-SALEM, NC 27102

J. ALLEN JOINES
MAYOR

May 20, 2020

The Honorable Thom Tillis
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Tillis:

Cities Are Essential and we are proving it every day. Right now, the City of Winston-Salem and all local governments are doing what we do best – caring for our residents. During the pandemic, residents have depended on the City of Winston-Salem, like other cities across the nation, to continue to provide essential services, even while the city's finances are beginning to buckle under the strain of plummeting revenues.

But we need a federal partner and direct economic relief to fully respond to, recover from and reopen after COVID-19. The first federal Coronavirus legislation was passed almost two months ago – yet during the last four packages passed by Congress during the COVID-19 crisis, economic relief has not been included for America's municipalities like the City of Winston-Salem. Now, many in Congress are pushing back on the next package even though the work is not done.

We need help and we need it now. We are facing a two-year impact of over \$18 million in revenue shortfalls (see attached charts). This will force dramatic budget cuts beginning July 1 if we don't get federal support as soon as possible in June. Therefore, please make the following your highest priority:

- \$500 billion in direct federal aid and economic relief from the COVID-19 pandemic for local governments of all sizes over the next two years;
- Flexibility to allow past funding for the Coronavirus Relief Fund and this additional \$500 billion to be used for revenues lost due to COVID-19; and
- Eligibility for payroll tax credits to help offset the costs mandated by federal COVID-19 leave policies.

These funding and policy adjustments are not a request for a handout, nor a call for a federal bailout – this is the extension of a partnership we must have in order to rise together in rebuilding and restoring our nation. Cities are the engine of the American economy. Relief for them is in reality an investment in the quality of life for residents. Without it our communities will be less safe, less healthy, and less prosperous.

In addition, as you know, the City in partnership with the Housing Authority of Winston-Salem (HAWS) was successful this year in receiving a \$30 million dollar Choice Neighborhood Implementation (CNI) grant. The CNI approach has demonstrable results. In addition to improvement of housing conditions for low-income residents each of the completed Choice Neighborhoods show a reduction in crime, increased employment rates, higher educational achievement, better health outcomes and increased social ties.

Although each award is \$30 million dollars in federal grants, each development leverages substantially more than that. In the case of Winston-Salem, it is estimated that we will see a total neighborhood change of nearly \$800 million.

Unlike CBDG and HOME, the HUD CNI program has a 5-year statutory limitation. Only Congress can extend this statutory limitation. To ensure current grantees can respond to the housing, supportive services and resource needs of families further stressed by the current pandemic, we request the following for all current CNI grants (FY2013 – FY2019):

- A 12 to 18-month extension on deadlines to allow time for grantees to complete the identified activities outlined in project timelines and respond to changing financial and construction markets and delays caused by COVID19; and
- An additional \$250 million to be allocated and evenly distributed among all current CNI grantees for administration (5%), the People component (15%), and to cover additional construction costs, delays, supportive services and coordination (80%).

I am also attaching for your information an Op-Ed from the Winston-Salem Journal and a City Resolution passed May 18. If you need more information from the City on this issue, please contact Assistant City Manager Evan Raleigh at evanr@cityofws.org or (336) 317-3807.

As you work through Phase 4 of federal coronavirus aid, please do so with a sense of urgency and remember that **Cities Are Essential**.

Sincerely,

Mayor Allen Joines
Mayor Pro Tempore Denise Adams
Council Member Dan Besse
Council Member Robert Clark
Council Member John Larson
Council Member Jeff MacIntosh
Council Member Annette Scippio
Council Member James Taylor

Wake County Mayors Association

Mayor TJ Cawley, President

Mayor Ronnie Currin, Vice President

February 4, 2021

Dear Senators Richard Burr and Thom Tillis, and Representatives Deborah Ross and David Price:

The Wake County Mayors Association consists of the mayors of the twelve municipalities in Wake County, representing more than 1 million residents. We unite to improve the lives of our residents and advocate for the needs of our communities and region. Today we come together to urge you to lead and support efforts to include local emergency fiscal assistance, which is currently under consideration.

We recognize and appreciate all that you have done for our region in recent years, and your recent efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. We especially thank you for being part of ongoing conversations and bi-partisan efforts in the U.S. Senate to build a coalition to support local governments.

Municipal governments, along with our state and county partners, continue to participate on the frontlines in combatting the COVID-19 virus. While fighting the pandemic to mitigate its spread, we are working to safely reignite our economies and reimagining how to bring back social engagement with a sense of certainty to our communities. Simultaneously, we are addressing potentially catastrophic decreases in revenues that support the critical services provided to our citizens and the state's economy. Our cities are facing dire long-term budget forecasts as the country faces the growing threat of a recession.

We implore you to provide **direct and flexible emergency stabilization funding to municipal and county governments** that can help us meet ongoing needs and mitigate loss of revenue. We can best serve our residents, and shared constituents, with funds directed to local governments in a way that avoids delays or redirections. We need the flexibility to rebuild our economy and ensure that we can continue to provide essential services, including police, fire, community development and public works as this crisis continues.

We want our municipalities to be a part of bringing our economy back rather than being a drag on the local efforts to recover. We appreciate the leadership our Congressional delegation provides in Washington, we need our Senators to help, now more than ever!

Sincerely,



TJ Cawley
Mayor, Morrisville, NC
2021 President Wake County Mayors Association

CC: Hon. Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, United States House of Representatives
Hon. Kevin McCarthy, Republican Leader, United States House of Representatives
Hon. Charles E. Schumer, Majority Leader, United States Senate
Hon. Mitch McConnell, Republican Leader, United States Senate.





February 5, 2021

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
U.S. House of Representatives
2462 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Foxx:

We appreciate your service to the State of North Carolina and our country, never more so than now in these turbulent and challenging times. Your attention to this letter is appreciated.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on America's economic stability and future recovery continues. Municipalities like the Town Morrisville (Wake County, population approximately 30,000) still have not received meaningful levels of federal aid. By separating, and ultimately dropping, state and local aid from the omnibus appropriations and emergency spending bill in December, there continues to be significant uncertainty into the capability of local governments to carry out their operations, just as a third wave of COVID-19 infections threaten to spread uncontrollably.

The National League of Cities' (NLC) latest revised estimate, based on the most recently available fiscal data and updated survey results, is that municipal governments are still facing a \$90 billion blow to their current year revenues.

Local elected leaders like the Morrisville Town Council have been working directly with our community stakeholders to manage our emergency response. We strive to manage resources to support the efforts of our first responders, coordinate regionally with other leaders across jurisdictional lines, reduce and limit town operations, especially community programs to stave off future spread of the virus, and pass ordinances to limit the worst economic outcomes for residents and small businesses on the margins.

At the same time, the still urgent, unmet need for federal aid has struck at the heart of local capacity to both carry out emergency response and participate in economic recovery. The Town of Morrisville has experienced approximately \$535,000 in lost revenue this fiscal year, primarily from our parks and recreation programming (projected to be \$1 million by fiscal year end), with only limited offsetting expenditure savings. To date, we have spent more than \$410,000 in COVID-19 response, and recently appropriated an additional \$115,000 to install touchless features to our parks and buildings to maintain future public health guidelines for management of this disease. While these numbers may seemingly seem small, they are not insignificant to the overall impact on our \$37.9 million annual budget. The pandemic was the singular reason for Town Council's decision to

defer a needed bond referendum to support needed capital infrastructure in town due to our concern about our citizen's inability to support such a measure during a pandemic.

Without additional aid and an appropriate, fair, and equitable allocation of this aid for all municipal and county governments, a preventable setback in household and economic stability, services, and vaccination distribution, will be unavoidable.

For the next package, we ask that you adhere to the following principles for direct intervention and prevention of local government fiscal decline resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic:

- **Emergency funding should be fair and appropriate for each and every local government, with no minimum population threshold for eligibility.**
- **Aid should be directly allocated through familiar and proven government revenue sharing programs.**
- **Entanglement of state and local funding should be minimized.**

To be clear, communities like ours are not asking for a “bail-out” of local governments. Local governments do not expect the federal government to make up for every loss of local revenue. Rather, we are seeking an additional lifeline for local governments to put off and ultimately avoid options of last resort, including making temporary cuts permanent at a time when our communities need local services most, potentially needing to reduce staff who comprise a large share of America's middle class, and indefinitely cancelling capital projects that will further impact local employment, business contracts and overall investment in the economy.

We seek your consideration of federal assistance to save America's cities and counties; and to make local leaders part of the solution to economic recovery.

Thank you for your swift action during this truly unique moment in American history. As partners working hand-in-hand both within our communities and also with the federal government and states, we are ready to continue to ensure that America emerges from this pandemic stronger than we were before.

On Behalf of the Morrisville Town Council,



TJ Cawley
Mayor

cc: Senator Richard Burr
Senator Thom Tillis
Congressman David Price, 4th District
Congresswoman Deborah K. Ross, 2nd District

President
Kathy Maness
Councilmember
Lexington, South Carolina

First Vice President
Vince Williams
Mayor
Union City, Georgia

Second Vice President
Victoria Woodards
Mayor
Tacoma, Washington

Immediate Past President
Joe Buscaino
Councilmember
Los Angeles, California

**Chief Executive Officer/
Executive Director**
Clarence E. Anthony

January 15, 2021

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, and Leader Schumer:

The National League of Cities (NLC) is the nation's foremost resource and non-partisan advocate for municipal governments and their leaders, representing all of America's 19,000 cities, towns, and villages. For nearly a year, local leaders have persevered against unavoidable fiscal decline to maintain essential government operations and services. At the same time, local governments have diligently implemented federal emergency aid to stabilize households and small businesses harmed by the coronavirus pandemic.

We are grateful for programs and funding that have been enacted under prior emergency appropriations packages. The fact remains, however, that most municipalities still have not received meaningful levels of federal aid. By separating, and ultimately dropping, state and local aid from the omnibus appropriations and emergency spending bill, Congress has injected significant uncertainty into the capability of local governments to carry out their operations just as a third wave of COVID-19 infections threaten to spread uncontrollably.

Consequences of Local Government Decline

Without any form of emergency federal aid whatsoever, NLC calculated the worst possible outcome for municipal governments would likely have been a \$360 billion decline in revenues over three years from the start of the pandemic. Fortunately, the three emergency appropriations packages approved by Congress has improved the outlook for local revenues, but they remain far below normal collections. **NLC's revised estimate, based on the most recently available fiscal data and updated survey results, is that municipal governments are still facing a \$90 billion blow to their current year revenues.¹**

¹ [Over Two Thirds of Cities Say Condition Will Worsen Without Federal Stimulus, NLC](#)

For local governments, the unmet urgent need for federal aid strikes at the heart of their capacity to both carry out emergency response and participate in economic recovery. Loss of capacity is directly related to local government job losses. U.S. labor market data reported on January 8th showed that state and local governments are still cutting jobs to offset revenue losses and pay for measures taken in response to new waves of COVID-19. According to the Bureau of Labor Statics December 2020 jobs report, local governments shed 32,000 jobs². Moreover, state and local government employment is still down by 1.385 million jobs compared to February 2020, just before major actions to control the spread of coronavirus went into effect.³

Municipal job cuts, and the resulting loss of capacity, has real-world consequences for residents, households, and small businesses. When residents lose jobs, demand for state and local government services increase. According to a recent Brookings report, COVID-19 triggered unprecedented increases in unemployment that overwhelmed state unemployment programs.⁴ Residents are relying on local governments for stabilization services through the long wait for unemployment assistance. Federal programs such as CDBG, Homeless Assistance Grants, and the Coronavirus Relief Fund under the CARES Act provided cities with additional resources to stabilize residents but did little to ensure local governments had the capacity to carry out those programs quickly or efficiently. Without federal aid for all local governments, there is no question that local capacity to administer emergency stabilization aid such as rent, utility assistance, and anti-hunger programs will decline.

Household services are also being scaled back, resulting in quality-of-life declines. According to NLC's City Fiscal Conditions 2020 report, nearly 8 in 10 finance officers say their cities are less able to meet the needs of their communities in 2020 than in 2019.⁵ A December update to NLC's survey of municipal officials found that 90% of municipal governments have experienced a revenue decrease of 21%, and 76% have experienced an expenditure on average increase of 17%.⁶ For households, among other things this means reductions in waste collection and recycling programs, delays in permitting for home construction and renovation, longer wait times for inspections and licensing, reduced services for households that rely on public transit, and pausing plans for utility build-out and upgrades such as water and sewer lines and broadband infrastructure.

Contractors that do business with local governments are also being harmed by the unavoidable decline in local government operations. NLC research shows that the deepest cuts from the pandemic are not showing on the stock market but on the Main Streets of cities and towns across America. According to NLC's Local Impact Survey⁷, 65 percent of cities have been forced to delay or cancel capital and infrastructure projects because of COVID-19 related revenue losses. Given that local governments contract months and years ahead, this means that the cuts will increasingly reveal themselves to businesses that bid for work in the months ahead. For small businesses that were unable to access Treasury aid like the Paycheck Protection Program, local governments served as their last resort for access to credit. NLC is documenting⁸ steps local governments have taken to support small businesses including halting or deferring the collection of taxes, utility payments, and licensing fees; offering zero-interest loans to those unable to access credit from financial institutions; and offering technical assistance to small-business owners applying for SBA loans. Conversely, slow-downs in inspections means costly opening and re-opening day delays and associated loss of wages for employees.

Direct Intervention for Local Governments

The fiscal decline associated with the coronavirus pandemic has placed unprecedented stress on both states and localities, as evidenced by intergovernmental infighting over CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds. Of the 19,000 cities, towns, and

² [Bureau of Labor Statics December 2020 Jobs Report](#)

³ [Hilltop Securities Municipal Commentary January 11, 2020: State and Local Government Job Losses in Three of Last Four Months Illustrate Continued Budget Pressures](#)

⁴ [The social safety net: The gaps that COVID-19 spotlights](#)

⁵ [City Fiscal Conditions 2020](#), NLC

⁶ [Over Two Thirds of Cities Say Condition Will Worsen Without Federal Stimulus](#), NLC

⁷ [Congress' Delay Slashes Main Street Investments Amid COVID-19](#), NLC

⁸ [Five Ways Local Governments are Supporting Small Businesses During COVID-19](#), NLC

villages in the United States, only 36 municipalities, each with more than 500,000 residents, were provided direct assistance under the CARES Act CRF. Specifically, the 36 municipalities with populations over 500,000 received about \$7.9 billion of the \$150 billion. As a result, the majority of the 19,000 municipalities below the 500,000-population threshold were excluded from a guaranteed minimum level of assistance. In May, NLC raised the alarm that more than half the states had not at that point allocated any CRF funds to small and rural localities.⁹

The lag in state action to share federal aid with local governments can be attributed to several factors, including unclear authorizing language and inconsistent rolling guidance from the Treasury Department. But the largest factor was likely the fact that the overall aid made available under CRF was less than the pandemic related losses for states alone. As of last November, NLC estimated 29%, or about 6000 municipal governments, had not received any CRF, HUD, or FEMA funds from the CARES Act.¹⁰

The lesson for Congress is that federal aid for localities should not be contingent on time-consuming state determinations and processes. Rather, federal intervention to prevent the decline of local government operations should take the form of direct allocations of aid to all local governments to ensure all cities, towns, and villages have the opportunity to access federal aid where it is needed to maintain essential government operations and services.

Hard-won lessons learned from the opioid addiction crisis reinforce this conclusion. Too often, desperately needed addiction treatment and recovery funds provided by Congress were delayed or made unavailable to local governments as a result of complex or unclear instructions between federal, state, and local authorities. To the extent that federal resources are allocated to state governments for use by states and localities, the federal government should include iron-clad language requiring states to clearly and efficiently pass-through funds to local governments within a defined period of time.

Appropriate, Fair, and Equitable Funding for All Municipal Governments

Federal lawmakers should adhere to the following principles for direct intervention and prevention of local government fiscal decline resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic:

1. **Emergency funding should be fair and appropriate for each and every local government, with no minimum population threshold for eligibility.** Residents, households, and small businesses should not tolerate a preventable decline in local government operations as a result of being excluded from emergency federal assistance.
2. **Aid should be directly allocated through familiar and proven government revenue sharing programs.** We recommend an allocation formula based on the Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG) as approved by the House in the HEROES Act. Relying on a CDBG framework would eliminate the time-consuming need to stand up a completely new administrative or regulatory framework as was required by the CRF. CDBG is also the most familiar revenue sharing mechanism for states and localities operating at reduced capacities due to staff furloughs and layoffs.
3. **Entanglement of state and local funding should be minimized.** A lack of clarity burdened the Coronavirus Relief Fund from the start, resulting in confusion, delays, and infighting among primary and secondary grant recipients. Federal aid for states and localities should be allocated through three distinct funding streams for state government, municipal government, and county government. Overall federal aid for municipal governments and county governments should be provided at equal levels.

⁹ [Local Governments Report Progress on Coronavirus Relief Funds, But Few Unobligated Dollars Remain for Cities and Towns Waiting for Aid, NLC](#)

¹⁰ [Cities are Essential, The COVID-19 Recession, NLC](#)

4. **Eligible expenditures should be targeted to the widespread health and economic consequences of COVID-19**, including unavoidable revenue shortfalls resulting from federal, state, and local measures to contain the spread of coronavirus.

Appropriate Guardrails

Appropriate guardrails can ensure federal assistance is appropriately allocated and spent to address losses and recovery related to COVID-19.

1. **Congress should enact guardrails to ensure additional federal intervention does not exceed reasonable levels of assistance to any municipal government**; and that the public can be confident that taxpayer funds are appropriately spent.
2. **To safeguard against funding levels greater than appropriate to meet the responsibilities delineated to municipal governments**, allocations for non-entitlement municipalities ought to be capped at 75% of their total annual budget.
3. **To safeguard against incentives to use federal aid as an offset for unwarranted cuts in state or local aid, a maintenance of effort requirement should be included to prevent any level of government** from imposing eligibility standards, methodologies, procedures, or other constraints on any other unit of government that are more restrictive than those that were in place upon enactment of the bill, in order to receive aid under this title.
4. **To safeguard against expenditures for long-standing unfunded liabilities**, pension funds should be designated an ineligible expenditure.

Additional Federal Aid

To help local governments offset the costs associated with the current national emergency response to this ongoing pandemic, Congress should include key provisions within H.R. 8266, the FEMA Assistance Relief Act of 2020, including adjusting the FEMA cost-share for all COVID-19 related Emergency and Major Disaster declarations to 100 percent. Additionally, Congress should include provisions within H.R. 8266 that would adjust the FEMA cost-share for all emergencies and major disaster declared in 2020 to not less than 90 percent federal and 10 percent non-federal, as well as a vital provision that would clarify that FEMA – under COVID-19 declarations – should continue to reimburse for certain expenses including personal protective equipment (PPE) for public schools, public transit, public utilities, courthouses and other government buildings and services.

Lastly, states and localities need more flexibility to use already appropriated CRF funding than is provided by the CARES Act. Amending CARES Act language to enhance flexibility for CRF by making “replacement of lost revenue” an eligible expenditure would meaningfully aid state, county, and municipal governments. We recommend CARES Act language be revised to read: *Title VI, Sec 601 (d):(1) are necessary expenditures or lost revenue incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).*

Conclusion

To be clear, we are not seeking federal assistance to “bail-out” local governments. Local governments do not expect the federal government to make up for every loss of local revenue. Rather, NLC is seeking an additional lifeline for local governments to put off and ultimately avoid options of last resort, including making temporary cuts permanent at a time when communities need local services most, laying-off furloughed municipal employees who comprise a large share of America’s middle class, and indefinitely cancelling capital projects that will further impact local employment, business contracts and overall investment in the economy. In other words, we are seeking federal assistance to save America’s cities, towns, and villages; and to make local leaders part of the solution to economic recovery.

Thank you for considering our urgent request for additional emergency aid to stabilize residents and maintain local government operations. If NLC can be of further help to you, please contact Irma Esparza Diggs, NLC Senior Executive and Director of Federal Advocacy, at 202-626-3176 or diggs@nlc.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clarence Anthony', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Clarence Anthony
CEO and Executive Director
National League of Cities

Cc: Office of President-Elect Biden
U.S. House of Representatives



METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

JOHN COOPER
MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
METROPOLITAN COURTHOUSE
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37201
PHONE: (615) 862-6000
EMAIL: mayor@nashville.gov

February 8, 2021

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
Chairwoman
House Committee on Oversight and Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Maloney,

Nashville is grateful to have been a direct recipient of State and Local Stabilization Funds from the Coronavirus Relief Fund, part of the original CARES Act. Of the \$121.1M received, all funds were expended by December 30, 2020, the original expiration of the funds. Use of those funds were carefully monitored by a Covid-19 Financial Oversight Committee, as well as approvals coming from our Metro Council. Those funds were optimized to serve not only the city's emergency response to the pandemic, but also to reach out to our community and provide critical assistance to residents and small businesses. Additionally, we provided a significant amount of funds to our public schools to assist with distance learning. What first sounded like a significant amount of funding quickly turned out to be far short of what we needed to meet additional, emergency needs of our city and community.

We appreciate the opportunity to share how additional funds would be used for Nashville and our recovery from the pandemic. Nashville's pace of recovery will determine the trajectory of Tennessee's economic recovery, and we seek to work together to achieve those shared goals.

Tourism & Hospitality Industry - Tennessee's economy relies heavily on Nashville, and Nashville's economy relies heavily on the hospitality and entertainment industry, which has been crushed by COVID-19. Critical local services are overwhelmed while Nashville's ability to meet those needs is impeded by insufficient local tax revenues generated by Nashville's previously booming hospitality and entertainment economy.

- **Restaurants & Hotels.** Nashville is home to 246 hotels and over 2,500 restaurants that employ 150,000 people. As with all businesses, restaurants and hotels are now required by law to provide PPE equipment for all of their employees (face masks, hand sanitizer, thermometers) and are taking on additional expenses to retrofit doors, registers, and handwashing stations for guests. Frequent and rapid testing are also key to keeping these businesses open and safe. These additional expenses come at a time when revenues/occupancy is at 20-40% of their pre-covid business. While the additional PPP loans will greatly help these businesses, we are being asked to do provide more funding in the form of grants to ensure that the businesses survive this pandemic.



METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

JOHN COOPER
MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
METROPOLITAN COURTHOUSE
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37201
PHONE: (615) 862-6000
EMAIL: mayor@nashville.gov

- **Music & Entertainment.** Nashville's international entertainment and music industry alone creates 48,600 direct and indirect jobs, and many of those work for small and micro-businesses that have been completely shut down and largely will remain hampered indefinitely. Not all of these businesses qualify for the shuttered venue grants offered in the second stimulus package.
- **Arts Organizations.** More than 16,000 Nashvillians work for music, arts, and cultural organizations. Those entities generate \$50 million in state and local tax revenues annually. These arts organizations provide direct services to more than 100,000 school children each year, and they are hurting. Again, many do not qualify for the shuttered venue grants, and PPP loans may not be enough, some will not survive.

Expanded Social Safety Net— While certain sectors of the social safety net are receiving the resources they need to respond adequately to the pandemic, other sectors are not receiving critical resources. The pandemic is shining a spotlight on the previously precarious social safety net here. Stretched pre-COVID, the pandemic is highlighting the weaknesses in essential services that are critical to our speedy recovery:

- **Workforce Development.** Unemployment, including a shift to remote and automated work, will permanently displace many of our most vulnerable, low-skilled workers. To address this, Metro seeks to bolster existing workforce development efforts, but also to implement a rational, comprehensive, and effective structure to rapidly assist with job training and job placement. Employers of good-paying jobs are calling our office weekly for this assistance and we can provide it with additional resources.
- **Behavioral Health.** The COVID-19 pandemic has triggered brutally high levels of behavioral health distress that are exacerbating our public health crisis. Fatal overdoses are up 42% over last year's rates, with an average of eleven deaths per week. Requests for mental health counseling for children have doubled during the pandemic. Depression and anxiety screening requests are up more than 370% since January 2020. Telemedicine behavioral health therapies have increased from 2% to 85% as a result of the pandemic and they are working. The long-term financial and societal implications for schools, employers, law enforcement, and our State of failing to address the current mental and behavioral health crisis are well documented. Funding is urgently needed to expand services to children and adults so that they are prepared for work and school.
- **Childcare/Distance Learning.** An alarming 42% of Nashville families lived in a childcare desert *before* Covid, and that statistic has only become worse during the pandemic. Numerous centers have closed or dramatically reduced capacity, despite state and federal efforts. We are seeking to grow the number of childcare centers as well as to increase capacity of currently licensed providers.

In addition to childcare needs, remote learning had created a need for a safe environment for children to have access to proper technology and adults who can assist with their schoolwork.



METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

JOHN COOPER
MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
METROPOLITAN COURTHOUSE
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37201
PHONE: (615) 862-6000
EMAIL: mayor@nashville.gov

Recent reports are over 3,500 MNPS students are not logging in daily and falling further behind. The Nashville Afterschool Zone Alliance has a program in place but cannot serve those seeking the service due to lack of funds.

- Eviction Mediation. Thousands of evictions are expected in Nashville as eviction moratoria expire. In order to reduce the numbers of evictions (and the ensuing long-term consequences to tenants of an eviction history), we propose providing free mediation services to landlords and tenants. While the goal of mediation would be to prevent evictions (and ensuing homelessness) by establishing a viable payment path for landlords and tenants, mediation can also devise a move-out and re-payment plan without a formal court-ordered eviction. This will go a long way toward ensuring that our struggling families will eventually be able to secure new housing and avoid homelessness. The funds requested here would enable the hiring of four trained mediators by Nashville Conflict Resolution Center.
- Interpersonal Violence. In the first half of 2020 alone, Nashville saw a 250% increase in domestic violence homicides, a 280% increase in requests for telephonic and in-person advocacy assistance for victims of domestic violence by advocates at our community based Family Safety Center, and a 30% increase in professional partners needing additional domestic violence prevention and response training. We attribute this to COVID-19 related difficulties for victims accessing services. The assistance requested here would enable the hiring of four case managers, four therapists, and one professional development trainer to undertake a robust public education and outreach campaign. It also would require significant additional funding to nonprofits to partner with Metro to provide the services at scale.
- Food Insecurity. Food insecurity has doubled in Nashville. Families continue to struggle to cover rent, utilities and food on their reduced income.

Ongoing emergency response - As this pandemic continues past a full year, so does our city's emergency response. It is more critical than ever to not let our guards down or reduce the safety of public buildings and emergency health order enforcement.

- Technology needs continue as employees continue to work from home and repairs and maintenance are needed for purchases made one year ago.
- We will continue to need funds for overtime for public safety and health personnel, PPE and sanitization, temporary labor at testing sites and homeless shelter.
- Our emergency response infrastructure has endured endless hours of use. It will be critical for us to replenish and replace safety equipment, medical supplies/gear, and fleet so we do not find ourselves in a weakened or limited position as we come out of this pandemic.
- Weakness in our public health response have been exposed. We could enhance our response and future responses with upgraded technology, communication and IT equipment, including electronic health records.
- We envision greater safety and security for our community. Not only did Nashville endure a pandemic in 2020, but also a tornado, damage and safety concerns from civil unrest, and



METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

JOHN COOPER
MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
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NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37201
PHONE: (615) 862-6000
EMAIL: mayor@nashville.gov

- crippling damage from a Christmas Day bombing. We need to reinforce our emergency management infrastructure (improved OEM facility), and create safer public buildings and fleet, and invest in greater technology support for safety.

Madam Chair, we thank you for taking the time to consider our needs. We are indeed grateful for the funds we did receive, but they were not sufficient to cover all the requests we received. Nor did those funds provide the flexibility we needed. With additional funding, we could make investments in our city's continued and future responses. We could also invest in our community and small businesses who need it more now than ever.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Cooper".

Mayor John Cooper



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF ST. LOUIS
MISSOURI**

**LYDA KREWSON
MAYOR**

January 28, 2021

CITY HALL - ROOM 200
1200 MARKET STREET
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI 63103-2877
(314) 622-3201
FAX: (314) 622-4061
KREWSONL@STLOUIS-MO.GOV

Congresswoman Cory Bush
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: President Biden's COVID Relief Legislation

Dear Congresswoman Bush:

As Congress considers President Biden's COVID relief legislation, I wanted to revisit the City of St. Louis' financial challenges as we continue to deal with the repercussions of the pandemic on City revenues. We are in great need for economic relief in the next COVID package.

For your reference, the attached chart, prepared by our Budget Director, documents that we are experiencing a \$90 million deficit. While we greatly appreciate the COVID relief funds approved by Congress in December, it failed to include the much-needed direct aid to local governments.

As such, I am renewing our call for \$350 billion in State and local government assistance, as included in the "American Rescue Plan," offered by President Biden. I hope that you will consider supporting this proposal that will deliver desperately needed relief directly to St. Louis. The funds would allow our city to continue to provide the health services to the most vulnerable during this crisis, preserve critical public sector jobs, and drive our economic recovery.

All American cities are in the same position. Our essential workers have been serving on the frontlines of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic for nearly a year. We have been charged with executing herculean public health efforts and an unprecedented emergency response. Despite immense fiscal pressure, our cities oversaw those response efforts, while continuing to maintain essential services and increase our internal capacity to provide support for residents and businesses who have been crippled by a tanking economy. And yet, as the economic engines of our country, local governments will be relied upon to lead the long-term economic recovery our nation so desperately needs, even as, with few exceptions, cities have been largely left without direct federal assistance. The lack of adequate support has resulted in budget cuts, service reductions, and job losses. Sadly, nearly one million local government jobs have already been lost nationally during the pandemic. Our essential workers deserve federal relief like any other sector.



I urge Congress to act quickly to provide direct, flexible aid to cities. It is the most efficient and immediate way to help families and their communities who have been suffering for far too long. I appreciate your consideration of my urgent request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lyda Krewson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lyda Krewson
Mayor, City of St. Louis

FY21 Revenue Estimates

Post COVID-19 IMPACT

FY21 Revenue Estimates									
FY20									
FY21									
Fund Dept Account Description	Actual Receipts FY19	Official Estimate FY20	Revised 3rdQ Estimate (Pre-COVID)	Actual Receipts FY20	Difference From Pre-COVID Estimate	Official Estimate FY21	FY21 1stQ Guidance?	Difference From Pre-COVID Estimate	
General Fund Revenue Summary									
Taxes									
Earnings Tax	184,405,968	179,970,000	193,094,000	175,759,726	-17,334,274	158,904,000	172,524,000	-20,570,000	
FY20 Eltax receipts deferred to FY21									
Real Property Tax	49,944,261	50,170,000	52,236,000	52,093,396	-142,604	52,816,000	52,816,000	580,000	
Personal Property Tax	12,162,449	12,285,000	12,361,000	11,964,815	-396,185	12,206,000	12,206,000	-155,000	
Sales Tax - 1 Cent	39,635,166	39,861,000	39,375,000	38,539,208	-835,792	30,667,000	31,395,000	-7,880,000	
Sales Tax - 3/8 Cent	14,833,328	14,936,000	14,766,000	14,437,155	-328,845	11,501,000	11,773,100	-2,992,900	
Gasoline Tax	8,602,434	8,500,000	8,674,000	8,433,169	-240,831	8,500,000	7,548,200	-1,125,800	
Automobile Sales Tax	3,263,329	3,361,000	3,424,000	3,266,704	-157,296	3,532,000	3,851,500	427,500	
Intangible Tax	533,672	500,000	976,000	976,337	337	500,000	500,000	-476,000	
Payroll Tax	39,592,511	40,165,000	42,399,000	42,360,695	-38,305	35,768,000	36,770,000	-5,629,000	
	352,973,118	349,748,000	367,305,000	347,831,205	-19,473,795	330,594,000	329,383,800	-37,921,200	
Licenses									
Amusement Admissions	521,308	340,000	500,000	1,050,251	550,251	500,000	500,000	0	
Cigarette	1,447,834	1,434,000	1,545,000	1,711,705	166,705	1,515,000	1,528,500	-16,500	
Graduated Business	6,746,613	6,900,000	6,748,000	6,041,829	-706,171	6,497,500	6,498,500	-249,500	
Manufacturer	331,881	285,000	214,000	299,205	85,205	303,000	327,700	113,700	
Motor Vehicle	1,463,409	1,433,000	1,481,000	1,384,793	-96,207	1,481,000	1,481,000	0	
Public Garage and Parking Lots	2,839,643	2,939,000	2,909,000	2,787,416	-121,584	1,606,000	1,112,700	-1,796,300	
Restaurant	3,385,044	3,501,000	3,325,000	3,293,298	-31,702	1,829,000	1,859,000	-1,466,000	
Other Licenses	1,167,114	1,250,100	1,136,398	1,197,596	61,198	1,135,830	1,190,500	54,102	
Commissions	-719,031	-786,000	-741,000	-730,908	10,092	-741,000	-532,600	208,400	
	17,183,815	17,296,100	17,117,398	17,035,185	-82,213	14,126,330	13,965,300	-3,152,098	
Franchise Fees									
Airport	6,761,984	6,882,000	6,882,000	6,081,474	-800,526	5,870,000	3,470,000	-3,412,000	
Electric	31,890,669	33,115,000	29,659,000	29,361,785	-297,215	29,852,000	27,449,000	-2,210,000	
Natural Gas	7,545,914	7,739,000	6,940,000	6,845,545	-94,455	6,871,000	6,559,100	-380,900	
Railroads	19,000	19,000	19,000	19,000	0	19,000	19,000	0	
Steam	516,347	480,000	167,000	384,884	217,884	236,000	257,000	90,000	
Telephone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Water	5,029,829	5,004,000	5,003,000	4,710,886	-292,114	5,023,000	4,672,900	-330,100	
	51,763,743	53,239,000	48,670,000	47,403,574	-1,266,426	47,871,000	42,427,000	-6,243,000	
Departmental Receipts									
General Government	443,684	414,400	439,100	423,611	-15,489	419,100	402,900	-36,200	
Finance	6,332,318	6,393,350	6,307,905	6,537,403	229,498	6,317,555	6,314,935	7,030	
Parks, Recreation and Forestry	1,089,434	1,137,500	1,131,378	1,097,097	-34,281	1,121,100	988,900	-142,478	
Judicial Offices	5,997,964	5,749,875	5,956,720	5,758,681	-198,039	5,962,701	4,908,600	-1,048,120	
County Offices	2,616,935	2,646,600	3,035,963	3,146,185	110,222	2,874,500	2,877,500	-158,463	
Streets	22,548,789	22,136,950	22,006,311	21,711,764	-294,547	21,650,284	21,872,100	-134,211	
Public Safety	28,478,571	25,441,830	23,657,400	24,380,200	722,800	29,447,465	27,971,141	4,313,741	
Police	494,292	573,100	905,000	578,298	-326,702	710,500	700,000	-205,000	
Health and Human Services	811,764	837,400	872,074	792,516	-79,558	850,550	717,900	-154,174	
Board of Public Service	317,790	426,800	249,857	297,553	47,696	247,700	371,100	121,243	
	69,131,541	65,757,805	64,561,708	64,723,308	161,800	69,601,455	67,125,076	2,563,368	

FY21 Revenue Estimates**Post COVID-19 IMPACT**

Fund Dept Account Description	FY20				FY21			
	Actual Receipts FY19	Official Estimate FY20	Revised 3rdQ Estimate (Pre-COVID)	Actual Receipts FY20	Difference From Pre-COVID Estimate	Official Estimate FY21	FY21 1stQ Guidance?	Difference From Pre-COVID Estimate
Transfers								
Convention & Sports Facility Trust Fund - Hotel Tax 3.5%	9,509,055	9,357,000	10,189,000	8,840,080	-1,348,920	4,622,000	4,388,000	-5,801,000
Convention & Tourism Fund - Restaurant Tax 1%	5,795,000	6,265,000	6,055,000	6,115,000	60,000	3,302,000	3,532,000	-2,523,000
Prisoner Housing Reimbursement	7,970,715	5,165,000	4,000,000	3,883,662	-116,338	0	0	-4,000,000
Traffic Violations Bureau Fund	398,832	403,000	366,000	433,437	67,437	366,000	192,000	-174,000
City Employee Pension Trust Fund	8,304,632	7,986,000	7,236,000	7,195,287	-40,713	6,411,000	7,275,200	39,200
27th Pay Reserve	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous Transfers	6,539,483	4,017,007	3,914,000	4,956,414	1,042,414	4,769,000	4,669,000	755,000
	38,517,718	33,193,007	31,760,000	31,423,880	-336,120	19,470,000	20,056,200	-11,703,800
TOTAL GENERAL REVENUE - FUND 1010	529,569,935	519,233,912	529,414,106	508,417,152	-20,996,954	481,862,785	472,957,376	-56,456,730
SPECIAL FUNDS								
1110 Local Use Tax	36,710,242	35,800,000	34,060,000	38,110,755	4,050,755	36,204,000	39,880,000	5,820,000
1121 Gaming Fund	7,595,916	7,600,000	6,870,000	5,545,490	-1,324,510	4,733,000	5,285,000	-1,595,000
1122 1/8 Cent Local Parks Sales Tax	4,906,652	4,936,000	4,875,000	4,773,335	-101,665	3,797,000	3,889,000	-886,000
1123 1/2 Cent Public Safety Sales Tax I	19,688,363	19,931,000	19,688,000	19,131,045	-556,955	15,333,000	15,698,000	-3,990,000
1124 1/2 Cent Economic Development Sales Tax	20,896,412	21,097,000	19,688,000	20,460,409	-772,409	16,250,000	16,648,000	-3,040,000
1125 1/2 Cent Public Safety Sales Tax II (Prop P)	20,674,879	21,097,000	20,868,000	20,376,729	-491,271	16,250,000	16,648,000	-4,220,000
1125 Local Use Tax (Prop P portion)	4,279,309	4,125,000	3,971,000	4,466,737	495,737	4,222,000	4,650,000	679,000
1219 1/10 Cent Metro Parks (City Share)	1,919,094	1,930,000	1,906,000	1,859,869	-46,131	1,485,000	1,515,000	-391,000
1219 3/16 Cent Metro Parks (City Share)	2,680,511	2,897,000	2,862,000	2,796,248	-65,752	2,229,000	2,278,000	-884,000
1220 1/2 Cent Capital Sales Tax	19,780,273	19,893,000	19,650,000	19,258,069	-391,931	15,305,000	15,688,000	-3,962,000
	139,331,651	139,306,000	134,438,000	136,778,686	2,340,686	115,808,000	122,179,000	-12,259,000
CITY FUNDS ALLOCATED TO METRO								
1114 1/2 Cent Transportation Sales Tax	19,797,985	19,911,000	19,668,000	19,279,728	-388,272	15,319,000	15,706,000	-3,962,000
1114 1/2 Cent MetroLink Sales Tax	20,982,008	21,102,000	20,845,000	20,414,936	-430,064	16,235,000	16,631,000	-4,214,000
	40,779,993	41,013,000	40,513,000	39,694,664	-818,336	31,554,000	32,337,000	-8,176,000
CITY TAXES ALLOCATED TO NON-CITY ENTITIES								
Metro Parks - Share of 1/10 Cent Sales Tax	1,919,000	1,930,000	1,906,000	1,860,000	-46,000	1,485,000	1,515,000	-391,000
Metro Parks - Share of 3/16 Cent Sales Tax	4,321,000	4,346,000	4,293,000	4,194,000	-99,000	3,344,000	3,417,000	-876,000
City Public Schools 2/3 Cent Sales Tax	26,387,000	26,537,000	26,213,000	25,690,000	-523,000	20,417,000	20,928,000	-5,285,000
3.75% Hotel Motel Tax - 11/15 to CVC	7,471,000	7,352,000	8,006,000	6,946,000	-1,060,000	3,632,000	3,448,000	-4,558,000
3.75% Hotel Motel Tax - 4/15 to RAC	2,717,000	2,673,000	2,911,000	2,526,000	-385,000	1,321,000	1,254,000	-1,657,000
(pro-rated based on City base revenues)	42,815,000	42,838,000	43,329,000	41,216,000	-2,113,000	30,199,000	30,562,000	-12,767,000
TOTAL ALL FUNDS - POTENTIAL LOSS IN REVENUE FROM COVID19					-\$21,587,604			-\$89,658,730
								-\$111,246,334
								FY20 & FY21 Combined Impact



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Mayor Melvin Carter

390 City Hall
15 West Kellogg Boulevard
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Telephone: 651-266-8510
Facsimile: 651-266-8521

February 11, 2021

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Members of the U.S. House of Representatives,

As communities across our nation continue to struggle amid the enduring public health and economic crisis, we also continue to grappling with the impacts of George Floyd's murder, civil unrest, a national reckoning on race and racism, an attempted insurrection at the United States Capitol on January 6th, the rise of hate, extremism and disinformation, and a national division unlike anything in our lifetimes.

Throughout the course of these uncertain times, our public service workers have been on the frontlines supporting the health, safety and security of our communities. Yet with local governments facing revenue shortfalls due to the economic crisis, and incurring extensive response costs, we have seen 1.4 million front-line service workers laid off.

With no clear end in sight to these compounding crises, we need a bold federal investment that exhibits nothing short of a new national standard of care to ensure we can build a path forward for all of us. In addition to ongoing support for children, families, workers and businesses, we must also invest in direct aid to local governments so that our public servants can continue providing the services our residents rely on them to provide every day.

If we are to truly ensure our country gets through this together, the next stimulus must provide robust, unrestricted aid which is critical to distributing the COVID-19 vaccine, preventing our children from falling behind in school, supporting our small businesses, and eliminating cuts to essential public services that will prolong the health and economic crisis we are facing. Building back better means we must fundamentally reshape our thinking with how we care for each other. President Biden's bold \$1.9 trillion stimulus plan advanced by the Senate responds to these needs and will help to ensure all of us get through this crisis together.

In Saint Paul, direct aid will support our firefighters, paramedics, and police officers in continuing to provide the life-saving services our residents rely on every single day. Direct aid will support our city staff who inspect homes, keep our water safe to drink, and who maintain our roads and infrastructure. Since we also serve residents who too often fall through the cracks of federal programs, like those experiencing homelessness,

direct aid will also help us continue to respond to our housing crisis which led to a 10-fold increase in the number of individuals living outdoors during the pandemic.

I urge the Oversight and Reform Committee to secure the critical aid contained in President Biden's plan for local governments, tribes, school districts, and U.S. territories so our public institutions can continue providing the vital services our residents, workers, and businesses need, now more ever.

We thank Members of the U.S. House of Representatives for considering this critical component as we work together to ensure no one is left behind.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M. Carter', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Melvin Carter
Mayor



Emily Larson
Mayor

Room 422
411 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802



218-730-5230



elarson@duluthmn.gov

February 5, 2021

To the members of the U.S. House of Representatives:

Thank you for your service to this country and for all that you do.

For nearly a year, public service workers – nurses, teachers, correctional officers and security counselors, EMS, general maintenance workers, child care providers, city inspectors and water treatments professionals, clerical workers, and so many more – have stood courageously on the front lines of the fight against the pandemic, doing everything in their power to keep our communities safe, healthy and strong. Despite risking their lives to save us, 1.4 million of these front-line public service workers have been laid off due to budget shortfalls caused by the pandemic, nearly double the total number of jobs lost during the entire Great Recession. We can't beat this pandemic, distribute the vaccine or get our country back to work if we thank these everyday heroes with pink slips.

President Joe Biden has put forward a bold \$1.9 trillion stimulus plan that has exactly the right priorities. Robust, unrestricted aid is critical to quickly distribute the COVID-19 vaccine, preventing our children from falling behind in school, reopening shuttered small businesses, and eliminating cuts to essential public services that will prolong the health and economic crisis we are facing. We must truly build back better.

In communities like Duluth, Minnesota, we believe in putting public good, our dedicated workforce, and our communities first. This aid is not a red state or blue state issue, but a smart investment and the right thing to do, especially as we see cases continue to surge around the country. The budget shortfalls state and local governments are experiencing have happened because of the pandemic, through no fault of their own. We are truly all in this together and everyone is hurting as a result. Rural and smaller communities like Duluth with populations under 500,000 were not included in previous aid packages since the passage of the CARES Act. Our communities need and deserve additional relief.

Additional aid will keep our critically important city staff on the job and provide our city residents access to resources to recover and build our new future - together. Police officers, firefighters, public works employees, and essential city functions to inspect homes, keep our water safe to drink, maintain our roads and infrastructure rely on additional aid. We cannot afford to do anything less than President Biden's \$1.9 trillion plan.

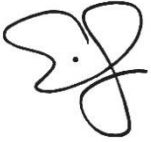
We urge the Oversight and Reform Committee to secure critical aid contained in President Biden's plan to state and local governments, tribes, school districts, and U.S. territories so we can keep public service workers on the job when we need them the most. We thank Chairperson Carolyn Maloney, Vice Chair Jimmy Gomez, Ranking Member James Comer and members of the committee for considering this critical component to ensure our country honors the work of public employees who often go into work every day and risking their lives in order for us to stay safe. We need them on the job and additional federal aid to state and local governments will greatly assist this effort.

www.duluthmn.gov

The City of Duluth is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Again, thank you for all that you do in service to this country, and for considering the needs of residents as we all find ways to come out of this pandemic.

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a dot, representing the name Emily Larson.

Mayor Emily Larson





February 4, 2021

To Minnesota's U.S. Congressional Delegation:

On behalf of the 43,000 members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Council 5 and 13,500 members of AFSCME Council 65, we urge you to support a coronavirus relief package that is based on President Joe Biden's American Rescue Plan to provide aid as soon as possible.

Minnesota and our country are suffering from one of the worst health and economic catastrophes ever. There have been nearly 450,000 deaths and millions of Americans have lost their jobs or are under-employed due to the pandemic. In Minnesota, there have been over 463,766 COVID cases and 6,234 resulting deaths. The U.S. economy has lost more than 22 million jobs at the height of the pandemic last year, including nearly 8% of Minnesota's workforce. According to the [Economic Policy Institute](#), 26.8 million workers—15.8% of the workforce—are being directly hurt by the coronavirus crisis. People are struggling to buy food and other necessities. There is also an escalating housing crisis and many people are struggling to pay rent or their mortgage.

We must act quickly and boldly to get our country in a position to rebuild a new future rooted in the lived experiences of working families. AFSCME Council 5 and Council 65 supports President Biden's \$1.9 trillion plan as a starting point for Congress to put together a robust economic recovery package. The plan includes \$600 billion to support public services, including \$350 billion in flexible aid to state and local governments, education funding, public transit funding, increased unemployment benefits, raising the minimum wage, direct cash payments, and eradicating the virus by providing funding for testing, contact tracing, vaccine distribution and PPE. Front-line workers like nurses, general maintenance workers, correctional officers and security counselors, social workers, clerical workers and others continue working throughout the pandemic keeping communities safe and healthy. Flexible, direct aid is now needed to avoid deep cuts in vital public services and more layoffs that we face due to our state's \$1 billion budget deficit.

Now is not the time to withhold or restrict needed spending. Substantial investment is urgently needed to help Americans that are suffering and to stimulate economic recovery.

In solidarity,

Julie Bleyhl

Executive Director, AFSCME Council 5

Shannon Douvier

Executive Director, AFSCME Council 65

Cc: U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar

U.S. Senator Tina Smith

U.S. Representative Jim Hagedorn, 1st Congressional District

U.S. Representative Angie Craig, 2nd Congressional District

U.S. Representative Dean Phillips, 3rd Congressional District

U.S. Representative Betty McCollum, 4th Congressional District

U.S. Representative Ilhan Omar, 5th Congressional District

U.S. Representative Tom Emmer, 6th Congressional District

U.S. Representative Michelle Fischbach, 7th Congressional District

U.S. Representative Pete Stauber, 8th Congressional District

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February 5, 2021

Honorable Brenda Lawrence
U.S. Representative 14th Congressional District
26700 Lahser Road Suite 330
Southfield, MI 48033

Dear Congresswoman Lawrence:

On behalf of Michigan AFSCME Council 25 and our nearly 50,000 Sisters and Brothers that keep Michigan communities, schools, and hospitals running, I am writing to emphasize the urgent need for the federal government to provide aid to our state and local governments.

Like states around the country, Michigan's state government has seen tax revenues plummet over the course of the past year. For the current fiscal year, Michigan's general fund and school aid fund revenues are down a combined \$1.2 billion relative to projections a year ago. For the next fiscal year, Michigan's general fund and school aid fund revenues are down a combined \$840 million relative to projections a year ago.

Meanwhile, the need for public expenditures to combat COVID-19 and jumpstart the economy has never been greater. Governor Whitmer's ambitious and much-needed Michigan COVID Recovery Plan aims to spend \$575 million in state funds to assist struggling small businesses, invest more in schools to help students recover from learning loss, and provide property tax relief and public assistance to struggling families. None of this will be possible if the federal government fails to provide substantial aid to state and local governments.

The consequences of failing to act would be dire. As Governor Whitmer has warned, inaction would lead to more people contracting and dying from COVID-19, schools staying closed for more months and students falling further behind, and more small businesses permanently shuttering their doors. All of these impacts have been, and will continue to be, disproportionately borne by Michiganders of color and by low-income families.

As a member of the House Oversight and Reform Committee, you play an instrumental role in shaping federal aid to states and local governments. It is imperative that Congress pass the full \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan that President Biden has proposed, and we ask you to strongly support it.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter, and please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

In solidarity,



Lawrence A. Roehrig
President
Michigan AFSCME Council 25

LAR:Imp



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

1620 EYE STREET NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
TELEPHONE (202) 293-7330
FAX (202) 293-2352
URL: www.usmayors.org

February 11, 2021 (Update #5)

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, Leader McCarthy and Leader McConnell:

RE: Urgent Action Needed on President Biden's American Rescue Plan

On behalf of The United States Conference of Mayors, we urge you to take immediate action on comprehensive coronavirus relief legislation, including providing direct fiscal assistance to all cities, which is long overdue. President Biden's American Rescue Plan contains such assistance as part of an aggressive strategy to contain the virus, increase access to life-saving vaccines, and create a foundation for sustainable and inclusive recovery.

American cities and our essential workers have been serving at the frontlines of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic for nearly a year. We have been charged with executing herculean public health efforts and an unprecedented emergency response. Despite immense fiscal pressure, your local government partners oversaw those efforts, while trying to maintain essential services and increase our internal capacity to provide support for residents and businesses who have been crippled by a tanking economy.

And yet, as the economic engines of our country, local governments will be relied upon to lead the long-term economic recovery our nation so desperately needs, even as, with few exceptions, cities have been largely left without direct federal assistance. The lack of adequate support has resulted in budget cuts, service reductions, and job losses. Sadly, nearly one million local government jobs have already been lost during the pandemic. Our essential workers deserve federal relief like any other sector.

The \$350 billion in direct relief to state and local governments included in President Biden's American Rescue Plan would allow cities to preserve critical public sector jobs and help drive our economic recovery. Providing direct, flexible aid to cities is the most efficient and immediate way to help families and their communities who have been suffering for far too long.

Furthermore, cities must be central to a deliberate strategy to accelerate vaccinations throughout the country. We support President Biden's proposal to mount a national vaccination program and the provision of additional resources to cities to bolster our efforts to contain the spread of the virus.

Your quick action on President Biden's plan is a crucial step to making meaningful progress in one of the most challenging moments in our country's history. The United States Conference of Mayors is eager to work with Congress and the incoming Administration to meet this challenge. We encourage you to take up the President's rescue plan as soon as possible in the 117th Congress.

Thank you for your leadership during this time of national crisis, and please feel free to reach out to our CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran at 202-744-9110 / tcochran@usmayors.org or Chief of Staff Ed Somers at 202-744-9223 / esomers@usmayors.org to discuss this priority request.

Sincerely,



Greg Fischer
Mayor of Louisville, KY
President



Nan Whaley
Mayor of Dayton, OH
Vice President



Francis X. Suarez
Mayor of Miami, FL
Second Vice President



Bryan K. Barnett
Mayor of Rochester Hills, MI
Past President



Steve Benjamin
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Elizabeth B. Kautz
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Past President



Tom Cochran
CEO and Executive Director

Cc: Members of the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate

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CITY OF FRAMINGHAM

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Dr. Yvonne M. Spicer
Mayor

508-532-5401
mayor@framinghamma.gov
www.framinghamma.gov

MEMORIAL BUILDING
150 Concord Street, Room 121
Framingham, MA 01702

Thatcher W. Kezer III
Chief Operating Officer

February 6, 2021

Dear Congressman Lynch:

I am writing to express the gravity of the need for immediate direct financial aid for our cities and towns, with the ability to use this aid to replace lost revenue. As the Mayor of Framingham, MA, I see it each and every day and know that our community's future depends on it.

At the same time that we have experienced a loss in revenue due to depressed economic activity, we have seen increased need for services in our communities. In Framingham, we have used federal aid to provide grants to struggling small businesses and to residents for housing and utility costs. However, the needs are growing exponentially for our seniors, unemployed and under employed workers that are struggling to make ends meet.

We have had to lay off staff and adjust budgets to address shortfalls in revenue streams since the onset of COVID-19. Even as our COVID-19 case statistics have been improving slightly, the financial need of our City and its residents continues. For example, we have stood up an emergency food and toiletry delivery service for those who are homebound or quarantining because they have been exposed to COVID-19 and have no other way of getting food and other necessities.

Furthermore, we have had to invest in making alterations to our schools and public buildings in order to ensure that our students and staff can learn and work safely, purchasing plexiglass barriers and increasing the intensity and frequency of sanitization of common spaces. Our workers have been on the front line of the fight against COVID-19 and our continued fight against this virus depends on our ability to fund essential services. We have very few places left to cut in our budget if we are to continue to provide them. It is imperative that COVID-19 relief resources come directly to cities and towns to shore up budget shortfalls and position us on the path of economic recovery.

I urge you and your colleagues to ensure that this aid comes directly and immediately to our cities and towns. Thank you for your dedication and hard work on behalf of our Commonwealth.

Sincerely,



Dr. Yvonne M. Spicer, Mayor
City of Framingham, MA

February 10, 2021

Dear Members of the United States Congress,

On behalf of the City of Burnsville, Minnesota and its nearly 62,000 residents, I am writing to urge swift passage and enactment of the American Rescue Plan, which includes \$350 billion in direct and flexible financial relief for our nation's cities. This will ensure that cities like Burnsville are able to maintain vital services and continue to provide the necessary support our communities need.

Burnsville, our surrounding cities in the greater Twin Cities metro area, and our frontline workers have played a critical role in stabilizing and moving our community forward through the pandemic. Direct funding to Burnsville will cover costs related to COVID-19 including fire and police call responses, expanded mental health services, and increased sanitation and public health measures. This funding will allow us to leverage public/private partnerships to rebuild our local economies and reduce the long-term impacts of COVID-19. Instead of being a drag on economic growth in the aftermath of the pandemic, the American Rescue Plan will enable cities to be catalysts of recovery.

Our nation's cities are on the frontlines of fighting COVID-19 and its social and economic impacts, and will remain on the frontlines as we emerge from this difficult moment in history. We appreciate your support for our efforts to maintain public health while rebuilding local economies. America cannot recover if its cities cannot recover.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth B. Kautz
Mayor
City of Burnsville, Minnesota



GOVERNOR OF PUERTO RICO
Pedro R. Pierluisi

February 3, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, Republican Leader McConnell,
and Republican Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the people of Puerto Rico I commend you for making COVID relief the top priority of the new Congress. There is no question that the development and delivery of critical healthcare requirements and provisions to assist individuals and businesses suffering in the current economic downturn must be enacted and enacted quickly.

Swift action is especially important to Puerto Rico where the effects of the pandemic have been especially difficult because they came after a devastating hurricane, the most severe ever to damage a United States territory, and during a period of prolonged recession.

I urge you to consider not only extending fully the provisions in the next COVID package to Puerto Rico, but also eliminating underlying program disparities that have put Puerto Rico at a disadvantage historically when compared to the states and the District of Columbia, especially in the areas of public health, nutritional assistance, and family support. The pandemic has highlighted the impact that these disadvantages have had on the quality of life of vulnerable citizens on the



GOVERNOR OF PUERTO RICO
Pedro R. Pierluisi

island, as well as the critical need and moral imperative to put the 3.2 million U. S. citizens living in Puerto Rico on an equal footing with their fellow citizens on the U.S. mainland.

With that in mind, while I urge you to provide equal treatment in any and all of the programs that Congress will agree to in the coming months, I would highlight specifically a few of the larger and most critical areas in which there are historic programmatic disparities that also should be addressed:

Child Tax Credit (CTC). Under current law Puerto Rican families share in this important program only if they have three or more children and the financial benefit is far smaller than families receive on the US mainland notwithstanding the scope of financial need among families residing in Puerto Rico. I urge Congress not only to support extending the full amount of any new temporary CTC benefit to Puerto Rican families but also to extend the regular CTC to Puerto Rico on an equal basis.

I cannot stress how important it is for the CTC to apply fully in Puerto Rico, where the poverty rate is 45%, the highest in the United States, and more than twice that of any state. While the full extension of the extra CTC will be very helpful, the extension of the full regular CTC would go a long way to alleviate poverty in Puerto Rico over the long term.

Earned Income Credit (EITC). Congress has not extended the federal EITC to Puerto Rico. I urge you to end this disparity by fully extending the EITC to Puerto Rico, or in the alternative, to fund Puerto Rico's local EITC to equalize the benefits that the EITC provides to low income working families residing in the U.S. mainland. The EITC encourages people in lower income brackets to work and a more robust and better funded EITC program would also go a long way to help bring down our overall poverty rate.

Nutritional Assistance. The \$1 billion block grant in nutritional assistance that President Biden has requested for the U.S. territories in his American Rescue Plan will be very helpful to Puerto Rico. I would like, however, to work with Congress and the Administration to bring Puerto Rico into the federal SNAP program. Our local program, unlike SNAP, is a block grant and falls significantly short of what is available to help our fellow citizens on the U.S. mainland to feed their families.



GOVERNOR OF PUERTO RICO
Pedro R. Pierluisi

Medicaid. Although Puerto Rico participates in Medicaid, the federal share of the cost of the program (FMAP) has always been below what that share would be in the case of a state; and Puerto Rico has never had the long-term funding commitment that states can depend on to provide healthcare to citizens close to or below the federal poverty line. For example, the federal share was temporarily increased to 76%, but unless action is taken otherwise the FMAP will fall to 55%, just slightly higher than the federal share of Medicaid for New York and California, even though both of them are among the wealthiest states and Puerto Rico has the Nation's highest poverty level.

Furthermore, in the case of Puerto Rico, federal Medicaid funding is subject to an annual cap pursuant to Section 1108 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1308), which renders the 55% FMAP unattainable, and only provides approximately 17% cost share of Medicaid costs on the Island, currently known as the Medicaid cliff. If Puerto Rico were treated equally under the funding formula without a cap, the federal share of Medicaid would be 83% on an ongoing basis.

I urge Congress you to use the COVID relief package as an opportunity to treat Puerto Rico equally for the Medicaid funding formula on a permanent basis so that we can provide adequate and reliable healthcare resources to the U.S. citizens in Puerto Rico, not just during a pandemic but on an ongoing basis as is the case in the states and the District of Columbia.

Stimulus Checks. I appreciate Congressional support and the support of President Biden for raising the full amount of COVID-related stimulus checks to affected individuals by another \$1,400. The original \$600 payments are in the process of being distributed in Puerto Rico and I urge you to include Puerto Rico in the additional amounts.

Support for State and Local Government. The pandemic has put the same type of pressures on our government operations as in the states and we would be grateful to be included equally in any programs that provide support to state and local government.

Although Puerto Rico became a territory of the United States in 1898 and Puerto Ricans were given full United States citizenship in 1917 and have distinguished themselves in the Armed Forces in every conflict since the First World War and contributed in many the ways to this Nation, key federal programs dealing with health, family support, nutrition, and the promotion of gainful employment have



GOVERNOR OF PUERTO RICO
Pedro R. Pierluisi

never been extended fully to Puerto Rico. Under those circumstances, Puerto Rico has lagged behind the Nation in economic development and the eradication of poverty.

I ask you on behalf of the 3.2 million U. S. citizens in Puerto Rico to not only to address the immediate pandemic concerns for the Nation, but also to end the disparities and unequal treatment in underlying programs that have made it difficult for Puerto Rico to enjoy the economic opportunities and prosperity that all Americans have long enjoyed.

I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Pierluisi", is written below the word "Sincerely,".



National
Congress of
American
Indians

National Indian
Health Board



NATIONAL
INDIAN
GAMING
ASSOCIATION



THE NATIONAL CENTER
For American Indian Enterprise Development



February 2, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221 U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230 U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: COVID-19 Recovery Legislative Proposal

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

This letter is on behalf of the undersigned American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) organizations, which collectively serve all 574 federally recognized AI/AN Tribal Nations. The recommendations outlined in this letter summarize critical funding and policy needs to help protect and prepare AI/AN communities to effectively respond to the ongoing novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

As the urgency, infection rate, and death toll of the COVID-19 pandemic intensifies, it is clear that Indian Country needs significantly more resources to protect and preserve human life and address the grave economic impacts resulting from the closure of government operations and tribal enterprises. AI/AN communities are disproportionately impacted by the health conditions that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) notes increase risk for more severe COVID-19 illness, including respiratory illnesses, diabetes, and other health conditions. We support the Administration's inclusions of tribal relief within the proposed COVID-19 Rescue Plan and request the following relief be incorporated into the next legislative package.

In addition to the specific funding and policy requests outlined below, Tribal Nations request maximum flexibility in the spending rules and timeframes for use of new and existing funds; tribal consultation with enforcement mechanisms; transparency in distribution formulas; and mechanisms

to facilitate, with tribal consent, inter-agency transfer of funds to Tribal Nations (through agencies with current contracts/compacts with Tribal Nations) and/or expanded direct contracting/compacting with Tribal Nations.

For your convenience, we have created an abbreviated list to coincide with the specific funding and policy requests found in this letter.

Economic Recovery and Employment

Economic Recovery Pg. 6

- At least \$20 billion in additional direct relief to tribal governments & flexible use of funds
- Provide lending assistance to tribal governments and their enterprises
- Ensure continued tribal access to PPP loans and include tribal governments, enterprises, and Native American businesses in small business relief
- Provide assistance to Native American community development financial institutions and Native American contractors
- \$50 million for tribal fisheries and fishers to address ongoing COVID-19 impacts

Employment..... Pg. 8

- Ensure continued support for tribal employers
- Extend and expand emergency unemployment relief for governmental entities

Education, Nutrition, and Human Services

Health..... Pg. 9

- Minimum \$8 billion directly related to the COVID-19 public health response to the I/T/U system including:
 - Minimum \$1 billion vaccination distribution and implementation
 - Minimum \$250 million in COVID-19 testing
 - Minimum \$200 million for PPE, medical supplies, and the deployment of supplement medical personnel
- Minimum \$1 billion for Native veterans' health through the Veterans Health Administration
- Minimum \$200 million tribal set aside for support of mental and behavioral health programs
- Minimum \$40 million tribal set aside for programs that serve as response to domestic abuse
- Minimum \$3 billion in funds to replenish third party revenue loss in the I/T/U system
- Minimum \$2.67 billion for the construction and improvement of water and sanitation infrastructure for the I/T/U system and Tribal communities
- Extend full (100 percent) Federal Medical Assistance Percentage to Urban Indian Organizations
- Permanently extend waivers under Medicare for the use of telehealth

Education..... Pg. 10

- \$1.5 billion in direct funding to Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) funded schools, as defined in 25 U.S.C. § 2021(3) to meet the health, safety, and educational needs of students due to the impacts of COVID-19
- \$1 billion to address deferred maintenance and failing infrastructure in BIE schools, as defined in 25 U.S.C. § 2021(3)

- Establish a \$24 million Tribal College and University (TCU) IT Service Fund within the USDA-Rural Utilities Service Program
- \$500 million for TCU Deferred Maintenance & Rehabilitation
- Increase TCU portion of HBCU and Minority Serving Institutions (MSI) Education Stabilization Fund to 10 percent and provide a named TCU portion of the BIE Education Stabilization Fund

Agriculture and Nutrition..... Pg. 11

- Implement Farm Service Agency (FSA) borrowers' assistance relief policies to support tribal producers and entities including:
 - Immediately defer all USDA loan principal due for the 2021 and 2022 production years, extend all loans for 2 years, and offer 2 percent interest buy-downs to lenders who offer the same deferrals and extensions to their borrowers
 - Allow the use of FSA Farm Ownership loans to refinance real estate and other debt to aid in recovery from this crisis
- Waive the prohibition on dual use of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Food Distribution Program Indian Reservations (FDPIR) in the same month

Human Services Pg. 12

- *Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF):*
 - Appropriate funding in the amount of \$2 billion to the TANF Contingency Fund (TCF) and allow Tribal Nations access to meet the significant needs of Tribal TANF recipients
 - Create and provide \$5 billion to a TANF Emergency Fund similar to the fund created in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) with a waiver of non-federal contribution for Tribal Nations and flexibility for Tribal Nations to spend in areas specific to each Tribal grantee
- *Veterans:*
 - Include provisions of H.R. 6800, the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act pertaining to the wellness of AI/AN veterans
- *Indian Child Welfare Services:*
 - Authorize language allowing Tribal Nations to directly access the Social Services Block Grant Program by establishing a 5 percent tribal government set aside in the statute
 - Provide \$30 million for Tribal governments under Title IV-B, Subpart 1 of the Social Security Act
 - Provide \$40 million for Tribal governments under Title IV-B, Subpart 2 of the Social Security Act to be divided as follows:
 - \$20 million to mandatory funding for Tribal Nations
 - \$20 million to discretionary funding for Tribal Nations

Transportation and Housing

Transportation..... Pg. 14

- \$1 billion in additional funding to the Tribal Transportation Program

Housing..... Pg. 15

- \$600 million in additional funding to the Indian Housing Block Grant formula distribution portion, with up to \$150 million withheld for the Indian Community Development Block Grants and Imminent Threat projects that Tribal Nations propose as a direct response to COVID-19 issues in their communities
- \$3.75 billion from the Homeowner Assistance Fund for eligible NAHASDA recipients using the funding allocation for Indian Housing Block Grants to provide urgently needed mortgage assistance to American Indian and Alaska Native homeowners
- \$900 million in additional funding to the Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) for payments to Indian Tribes and Tribally designated housing entities (TDHE) for providing short - or medium-term assistance with rent and rent-related costs
- Include direct Tribal eligibility for any appropriations that are earmarked to other general federal housing programs

Tribal Governance & Broadband

Tribal Governance..... Pg. 17

- \$950 million in additional funding for Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Priority Allocations programs

Broadband..... Pg. 17

- \$1 billion to Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grants Program and include technical fixes to the program established under H.R. 133

Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Homeland Security and Emergency Management Needs..... Pg. 18

- Reaffirming Tribal Priorities and address roadblocks to emergency services by:
 - Making the 25 percent federal cost share waiver retroactive to Tribal Nations
 - Reversing FEMAS's September 15, 2020, Interim Public Assistance Policy

Thank you for your consideration of the recommendations outlined in this letter. We look forward to working with you to ensure that Indian Country's concerns and priorities are comprehensively addressed, as we respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

National Congress of American Indians
National Indian Health Board
National Indian Education Association
National Indian Gaming Association
National Indian Child Welfare Association
National Council of Urban Indian Health
National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development
National Association of Food Distribution Programs on Indian Reservations
Native Farm Bill Coalition
Intertribal Agriculture Council
Self-Governance Communication & Education Tribal Consortium

Association on American Indian Affairs
Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association
United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund
Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians
Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes
United Tribes of Michigan

Economic Recovery and Employment

Economic Recovery:

- **At Least \$20 billion in Additional Direct Relief to Tribal Governments & Flexible Use of Funds**

Background: The Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF), which was established through Section 5001 of the CARES Act, provided a total of \$150 billion in federal fiscal support for Tribal, state, and local governments. The CRF was intended to address the economic devastation governments face due to declining revenues which fund government services. Tribal governments are experiencing significant impacts from COVID-19 and are projected to lose over \$20 billion in critical government revenue as a result of the pandemic. Further, it is estimated that Tribal government-owned enterprises, which constitute the tax base of many tribal nations, sustained 35% revenue losses in 2020 alone. Since Tribal governments lack the traditional tax bases enjoyed by state and local governments, Tribal enterprise revenues often supply most of the funding for government services. Normally, Tribal governments and their enterprises support more than 1.1 million jobs and more than \$49.5 billion in annual wages and benefits for American workers.

The pandemic has drastically reduced Tribal enterprise revenues, which has crippled Tribal governments' ability to provide basic government services at a time when the demand for those very services are growing. These lost government revenues are forcing many tribes to impose budget cuts to the delivery of essential education, health, and public safety services to Native citizens. As a result, the economies and workforces in Tribal and surrounding communities have been gravely impacted by COVID-19. To address this impact on Tribal governments, which serve some of the most socio-economically disadvantaged populations in the United States, the member of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) passed Resolution [PDX-20-028](#) which requests (1) at least \$20 billion in direct relief for tribal governments or a proportionate tribal set aside that is not less than 5.33 percent of the entire increased direct relief allocation; (2) flexible use of funds including for lost revenue; (3) reasonable timelines for use of funds that extend beyond 2022 given the ongoing duration of the pandemic to enable recipients to use the funds effectively and efficiently; and (3) direct allocations to tribal governments using the Federally Recognized Tribe List Act.

- **Provide Lending Assistance to Tribal Governments and Their Enterprises**

Background: Tribal governments nationwide remain in declared public health and safety emergencies and have closed government-owned enterprises. The resulting depletion of revenues for Tribal government treasuries is forcing reductions in the delivery of essential government services. Simultaneously, many Tribal governments and their enterprises will face financial pressures and potential defaults due to the lack of government revenue, particularly as the pandemic is projected to last into Summer 2021. Within the CARES Act, Congress expressed support for stabilizing Tribal governments and enterprises by including them in Title IV, which authorized the Federal Reserve and Secretary of the Treasury to make loans and loan guarantees to provide liquidity. Despite Congress' intent, these lending facilities contained restrictions that excluded Tribal governments and their enterprises from accessing this loan assistance.

As a result, NCAI membership passed Resolution [#PDX-20-020](#), which supports the establishment of a Tribal set aside within any new or re-established loan and loan guarantee program. To accomplish

Congress' intent, we request \$25 billion for Tribal debt purchasing, \$30 billion for loan guarantees, and direction to Treasury to create a program that addresses the debt and liquidity needs of Tribal governments and their enterprises.

- **Ensure Continued Tribal Access to PPP Loans and Include Tribal Governments, Enterprises, and Native American Businesses in Small Business Relief**

Background: The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and Economic Injury Disaster Loans program have provided critical assistance for tribal business concerns (TBCs) and we strongly support increased funding to these programs. Additionally, H.R. 133 provided for second draw eligibility for employers with less than 300 employees. We ask that TBCs be excluded from this employee restriction because TBCs were largely excluded from the first tranche of PPP funding due to administrative, non-statutory restrictions limiting the types of gaming facilities that were eligible for PPP loans. These restrictions were later lifted after the initial CARES Act PPP funding had largely run. Many TBCs that have 350-500 employees sustain entire rural economies making access to additional PPP essential for maintenance of their payroll and the overall well-being of these communities. Excluding these businesses from a second draw would further disadvantage employers who were subject to disparate access in the first PPP draw. Accordingly, to accomplish Congress' intent to address inequitable access to PPP loans, we ask that TBCs be exempted from the 300 employee limitation for second draw loans.

In addition to PPP and EIDL assistance, Tribal Nations must be included in any new business relief program or in any existing program that may receive increased appropriations such as the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI). Tribal governments are integral to supporting Tribal businesses and Native American small businesses, and access to relief and recovery is essential for restoring Tribal and dependent non-Tribal economies and workforces.

- **Provide Assistance to Native American Community Development Financial Institutions and Native American Contractors**

Background: The COVID-19 pandemic provides an unprecedented threat to the solvency of Native small businesses, especially for Native Community Development Financial Institutions (NCDIFs) and Native American Contractors (NACs). Native small businesses are critical to the growth and existence of Native small businesses and also provide critical support in federal contracting. During this period of national financial distress, emergency relief and a waiver of program restrictions are needed to enable NACs and NCDIFs to avoid bankruptcy, support their communities and business partners, and aid the national recovery. For the continued reasons set forth in our April 30, 2020 letter, we re-state our asks for support for NDCFI, NACs, and support for Native American businesses within Department of Commerce, the Small Business Administration, and Department of Treasury.¹

- **\$50 Million for Tribal Fisheries and Fishers to Address Ongoing COVID-19 Impacts**

¹ See April 30, 2020 Inter-Organizational letter, [https://www.ncai.org/Covid-19/legislative-updates/Tribal Economic Dev - Employment Priorities -House-.pdf](https://www.ncai.org/Covid-19/legislative-updates/Tribal%20Economic%20Dev%20-%20Employment%20Priorities%20-House-.pdf) (We note two updated asks: (1) Recently enacted Public Law 116-261 permanently waived the non-federal matching funds requirement for NCDIFs receiving NACA Program funding. With tribal nations and TBCs facing additional constraints from COVID-19 responses, it is essential to ensure that the permanent waiver shall apply to all future NACA Program funding; (2) P.L. 116-261 also elevated the Office of Native American Business Development (ONABD) and authorized it a \$2 million stand-alone budget annually, so Congress should now appropriate \$2 million for the ONABD to fulfill its duties which are especially critical to address the pandemic and economic recovery).

Background: Tribal fisheries are vital to Tribal, local, and regional economies and serve as the primary source of income for many families. The pandemic is having grave impacts on Tribal fisheries due to closures and market disruptions. Tribal fisheries contribute significantly to annual fisher income and provide a ceremonial and subsistence food source for use by the community throughout the year. To address this increasing harm, an additional \$30 million is needed for the Tribal set aside under Section 12005 of the CARES Act and H.R. 133 and continue to include Tribal fisheries in the Great Lakes.

Employment:

Tribal governments are often the largest employers in their localities. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted Tribal governments, businesses, economies, and communities. As the urgency, infection rate, and death toll of the pandemic intensify, Tribal employers must make urgent decisions regarding their workforces, public health, and unemployment costs. To ensure Tribal access to emergency employment and unemployment assistance, we request the following:

- **Ensure Continued Support for Tribal Employers**

Background: Many Tribal employers provided their employees enhanced flexibilities from leave to changed job descriptions under Tribal law during the pandemic to sustain their workforces, and some tribal employers elected to participate in federal tax credit programs. Due to the uniqueness of Tribal workforces as an exercise of tribal sovereignty, we ask that Congress continue to ensure that Tribal governments are not subject to workforce mandates. Instead, as established by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), the CARES Act, and supporting department policy and procedure, Congress should permit Tribal employers to voluntarily opt-in to any leave program and tax credits, including temporary paid and sick leave and employee retention tax credits. Tribal employers are critical to restoring and rebuilding Tribal workforces, and this mutual goal is best supported by ensuring Tribal employers receive access to assistance at their continued voluntary election.

- **Extension and Expansion of Emergency Unemployment Relief for Governmental Entities**

Background: COVID-19 related closures of Tribal offices and enterprises resulted in layoffs and have impacted Tribal reimbursement-option employers with unforeseen increased costs from state unemployment programs. Many of these employers lack funds to pay these costs due to declining revenues. In response, Congress in the CARES Act and H.R. 133, covered 50 percent of the costs of state unemployment by reimbursement employers, including tribal governments in the CARES Act and H.R. 133. For the continued reasons set forth in our April 30, 2020 letter,² this coverage must be extended to December 31, 2021, and coverage must be increased from 50 percent to 100 percent of costs.

² Id.

Health, Education, Nutrition, and Human Services

Health:

As the COVID-19 infection rate, and death toll intensifies in Indian Country, the Indian Health Service (IHS), Tribal health programs, and Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs) (collectively referred to herein as the I/T/U system) need significantly more resources to protect and preserve human life. To address these needs, the undersigned Tribal organizations support the requests made by the National Indian Health Board in their January 29, 2021 letter.³

- **Minimum \$8 Billion Directly Related to the COVID-19 Public Health Response to the I/T/U System Including:**
 - **Minimum \$1 Billion Vaccination Distribution and Implementation**
 - **Minimum \$250 Million in COVID-19 Testing**
 - **Minimum \$200 Million for PPE, Medical Supplies, and the Deployment of Supplement Medical Personnel**
- **Minimum \$1 Billion for Native Veterans' Health Through the Veterans Health Administration**
- **Minimum \$200 Million Tribal Set Aside for Support of Mental and Behavioral Health Programs**
- **Minimum \$40 Million Tribal Set Aside for Programs That Serve as Response to Domestic Abuse**
- **Minimum \$3 Billion in Funds to Replenish Third Party Revenue Loss in the I/T/U System**
- **Minimum \$2.67 Billion For the Construction And Improvement of Water and Sanitation Infrastructure for The I/T/U System and Tribal Communities**
- **Permanently Extend Waivers Under Medicare for the Use of Telehealth**

Background: During the COVID-19 crisis, telehealth and telemedicine are critical to providing health care services to AI/AN people. Unfortunately, rural Tribal Nations may be unable to provide these services due to the lack of broadband capacity or infrastructure in their area. COVID-19 has dramatically increased the need to connect Medicare patients to their providers through telehealth. This increased need is likely to continue after the national COVID-19 pandemic has passed, particularly for patients in the Indian health system. In addition, as more AI/AN patients become accustomed over time to the telehealth model, it will likely play a more significant role as a mechanism for delivering healthcare well beyond the end of this pandemic.

³ National Indian Health Board Letter to the Honorable Nancy Pelosi on January 29, 2021, regarding COVID-19 Stimulus Health and Public Health Funds to Indian Country, https://www.nihb.org/covid-19/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/NIHB_JAN2021_COVID-stimulus-letter-House.pdf

With the urgent need to maximize telehealth flexibility in response to COVID-19, Tribal Nations strongly urge Congress to permanently extend the existing waiver authority for the use of telehealth under Medicare.

- **Extend full (100 percent) Federal Medical Assistance Percentage to Urban Indian Organizations**

Background: Currently, the federal government reimburses states at a 100 percent rate for Medicaid services provided at IHS and Tribal facilities; this is not the case for services provided UIOs. UIOs are one of the three components of the IHS system, and AI/AN-specific provisions resulting from the trust obligation are routinely intended to apply to the entire IHS system. Allowing UIOs to receive an equal reimbursement for Medicaid services through the full federal share of costs (thereby increasing resources for states) will better ensure these critical health care providers can serve more COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 patients now and it will allow these programs to serve vulnerable AI/AN populations living in urban areas in the future.

Education:

- **\$1.5 Billion in Direct Funding to Bureau of Indian Education (BIE)-funded schools, as Defined in 25 U.S.C. § 2021(3) to Meet the Health, Safety, and Educational Needs of Students Due to the Impacts of COVID-19**

Background: The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated longstanding educational disparities that directly result from the federal government's chronic underfunding of its trust and treaty responsibilities. As BIE-funded schools continue to move forward in the 2021 academic year, K-12 schools presently do not have the resources and educational infrastructure to ensure a safe return for our students. Increased funding for information technology equipment and remote learning requirements, broadband connectivity and upgrades, professional development and training, mental health and counseling services, personal protective equipment, and student transportation and planning requirements are urgently needed to ensure BIE-funded schools have the resources they need to support the health, safety, and educational needs of students.

- **\$1 Billion to Address Deferred Maintenance and Failing Infrastructure in BIE-funded Schools, as Defined in 25 U.S.C. § 2021(3)**

Background: Prior to the pandemic, the federal government recognized that AI/AN students were being educated in inadequate facilities. For example, the Department of the Interior identified \$629 million in deferred maintenance for BIE-funded education facilities and \$86 million in deferred maintenance for BIE educational quarters, including severely overcrowded classrooms. In addition to the crumbling physical infrastructure, tribal communities disproportionately lack the infrastructure to engage in culturally rich remote education. Increased emergency appropriations are needed to address these infrastructure issues which are impacting access to education during the pandemic.

- **Establish a \$24 Million TCU IT Service Fund within the USDA-Rural Utilities Service Program**

Background: The ongoing pandemic has exacerbated the digital divide and homework gap and underscored the lack of broadband access across Indian Country. To address these deficiencies,

Congress should establish a permanent Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCU) IT Service Fund within the existing USDA-Rural Utilities Service Program. A \$24 million set-aside for TCUs, which are the 1994 Land-grant institutions, is needed to cover ongoing equipment costs, maintenance and upkeep, infrastructure expansion, and IT staffing. If TCUs had adequate funding for IT service and infrastructure support, they would have already put in place many of the community-based mobile hot spots needed to address the “homework gap” on many tribal lands.

- **\$500 Million for TCU Deferred Maintenance & Rehabilitation**

Background: A 2018 study involving 22 TCUs revealed a list of chronic facilities-related needs, including student and faculty housing, classrooms, libraries, and laboratories. The 22 TCUs have an estimated total need of \$332.5 million in deferred maintenance and rehabilitation and need \$558 million to fully implement existing master plans. Extrapolating this to all 35 accredited TCUs, the total current need is \$500 million for Deferred Maintenance/Rehabilitation and \$837 million for the completion of Master Plans.

- **Increase TCU Portion of HBCU and MSI Education Stabilization Fund to 10 Percent and Provide a Named TCU Portion of the BIE Education Stabilization Fund**

Background: Under the CARES Act and The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA), Congress provided 7.5 percent of the Higher Education Fund for TCUs, Historical Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), and other minority-serving institutions. While the overall combined funding provided to the “MSI Community” totaled over \$1 billion under each COVID relief package, Congress allocated funding to each institutional category according to the percentage allocated in FY 2020 appropriations. Using this allocation method limited TCUs to receiving 4.8 percent of the MSI fund, which resulted in \$50.469 million to be split among 35 TCUs under the CARES Act. While the overall funding made available to the MSI community was sizeable, allocation of funding among Minority Serving Institutions (MSI) categories based on FY 2020 appropriations further perpetuates the inequitable funding of TCUs. To support pandemic-related needs of TCUs, a minimum of 10 percent of the overall MSI fund is needed to partially account for past inequities and the growth of new TCUs over the past ten years. The term “Tribal Colleges and Universities,” defined in section 316(b)(3) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c), should be used to ensure that all TCUs are included in new federal programs and opportunities.

Agriculture and Nutrition:

- **Implement Farm Service Agency (FSA) Borrowers’ Assistance Relief Policies to Support Tribal Producers and Entities Including:**
 - **Immediately Defer all USDA Loan Principal Due for the 2021 and 2022 Production years, Extend all Loans for 2 Years, and Offer 2 Percent Interest Buy-Downs to Lenders Who Offer the Same Deferrals and Extensions to their Borrowers;**
 - **Allow the Use of FSA Farm Ownership Loans to Refinance Real Estate and Other Debt to Aid in Recovery from this Crisis. This Program has no Taxpayer Cost**

Background: While COVID-19 relief provided through congressional funding and USDA have provided payments for losses to agriculture producers, many more are facing increased uncertainty and risks associated with their operating loans as the pandemic continues to impact production and

markets. Farm Service Agency (FSA) borrowers need immediate payment relief to ensure continuity of operations and access to credit, and the proposed provisions will also enable assistance to non-FSA borrowers as well. Providing relief will help stabilize production in Indian Country and all of rural America, and it will further improve the sustainability and resiliency of Indian Country agriculture. These actions will support producers across the country by keeping their production income invested in their local economy, infusing over \$1 billion in deferred principal payments directly into rural and agriculture economies across the country without a substantial cost.⁴

- **Waive the prohibition on Dual Use of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Food Distribution Program Indian Reservations (FDPIR) in the Same Month**

Background: The current prohibition against using both FDPIR and SNAP in the same month must be temporarily waived. This will allow AI/AN households more food options at a time when it is needed the most, reduce administrative burdens on FDPIR and SNAP staff, and slow the inventory depletion at FDPIR sites. FDPIR sites are seeing increased take rates of food, because people are now taking more items within their allocation out of concern over local food availability. SNAP participants, especially those in rural areas are seeing limited availability of food, coupled with price increases. Providing FDPIR participants with additional SNAP benefits helps address both of these challenges while providing Native households with more options and food benefits at a time when it is needed the most. All FDPIR households should be provided the option to receive SNAP benefits either fitting their need or they should be provided a set amount of \$100 in SNAP each month.

Human Services – Tribal TANF

- **Appropriate Funding in the Amount of \$2 Billion to the TANF Contingency Fund (TCF) and Allow Tribal Nations Access in Order to Meet the Significant Needs of Tribal TANF Recipients**

Background: The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996 (P.L. 104-193, as amended) created a \$2 billion TCF to assist states in meeting the need for welfare assistance during periods of economic distress. The TCF was exhausted in the last recession and Congress has appropriated \$608 million per year to it with the fund being spent each year regardless of economic conditions. Unfortunately, Tribal Nations were not included in the statute as eligible for these critical funds, nor were the disproportionate levels of negative socioeconomic indicators in Indian Country considered in the creation of the TFC. Tribal Nations should be able to access the TFC with waivers from the state criteria of economic need, which includes, but is not limited to, increases in the state's unemployment rate formula, and increases in the state's SNAP caseload.

- **Create and Provide \$5 Billion to a TANF Emergency Fund Similar to the Fund Created in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) with a Waiver of Non-Federal Contribution for Tribal Nations and Flexibility for Tribal Nations to Spend in Areas Specific to Each Tribal Grantee**

Background: In 2009, ARRA created a TANF Emergency Fund which reimbursed 80 percent of

⁴ Intertribal Agriculture Council's Native Farm Bill Coalition Top Priorities for Additional COVID-19 Relief for Tribal Agriculture, January 29, 2021, https://28d595ea-c9bb-4218-87df-a3cbf4d05915.filesusr.com/ugd/d039dc_3ea208615289405490d38dfd9f71c5d1.pdf

increased expenditures as spurred by the 2008 economic crisis. During this period, 25 Tribal Nations and tribal organizations received grants under the Emergency Fund. A similar economic crisis has emerged due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tribal Nations, unlike states, do not have sufficient tax bases from which to draw funds to support non-federal contributions, and therefore should be exempt from this requirement.

Human Services – Veterans

- **Include Provisions of H.R. 6800, the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act Pertaining to the Wellness of AI/AN Veterans**

Background: AI/ANs have a long history of distinguished service to this country. Per capita, AI/ANs serve at a higher rate per capita in the Armed Forces than any other group of Americans and have served in all the nation's wars since the Revolutionary War. Despite this esteemed service, AI/AN veterans have lower personal incomes, higher unemployment rates, and are more likely to lack health insurance than other veterans.

The HEROES Act included several provisions to address the unique needs of tribal veterans, including, but not limited to, increased funding for in-home care, suspension of debt collection for VA fees, and more. Tribal Nations urge Congress to include these provisions and others listed in NCAI Resolution PDX-20-008, in any upcoming legislation.⁵

Human Services – Child Welfare

- **Authorize Language Allowing Tribal Nations to Directly Access the Social Services Block Grant Program by Establishing a 5 Percent Tribal Government Set Aside in the Statute**

Background: Tribal Nations, like state governments, are facing unforeseen challenges resulting from COVID-19. They require creative solutions that support families struggling with a multitude of challenges that cross a variety of governmental service areas. States have depended upon flexible funding sources like the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) to help them close the funding gaps in other federal and state sources and address community wide crises like COVID-19. Tribal nations need the certainty of funding like the SSBG to address the gaps in funding that comes from having a patchwork of social services funding that typically provides only small amounts of funding and can fluctuate from year to year. Overall, Tribal Nations receive only one percent of all federal social services funding, and yet their citizens represent almost four percent of the United States population and have some of the highest rates of social problems. Only two states share any of their SSBG funds with Tribal Nations, while all states use tribal population numbers to determine their funding levels. Providing direct access to the SSBG would be the most certain method for providing tribal governments with reliable funding from year to year that can meet a broad continuum of community needs, especially during times of crisis.

- **Provide \$30 million for Tribal Governments Under Title IV-B, Subpart 1 of the Social Security Act**

⁵ NCAI Resolution #PDX-20-008: "Ensuring Inclusion of Native American Veterans in Future COVID-19 Legislation", https://www.ncai.org/attachments/Resolution_QqSpQeifGRLTKeQDtVeGxfbVrZSREsdIYFeSczURAAxAirlarLQ_PD X-20-008%20SIGNED.pdf

Background: Title IV-B, Subpart 1 funding supports Tribal Nation efforts to keep families together, which is critical during the response and recovery stage of COVID-19. As more and more families are being placed under stay at home orders, all children, including Indian children, may be at increased risk for child abuse or neglect during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially given the closure of schools and limited availability of routine health care services that are primary reporting sources for child abuse and neglect incidents. The Title IV-B, Subpart 1 program provides funds for a wide variety of child abuse and neglect prevention and intervention services with the largest amounts being spent on child protection investigations, case management for children in foster care, and staff training to improve skills and knowledge.

- **Provide \$40 million for Tribal Governments Under Title IV-B, Subpart 2 of the Social Security Act to be Divided as Follows:**
 - **\$20 million to Mandatory Funding for Tribal Governments**
 - **\$20 million to Discretionary Funding for Tribal Governments**

Background: Title IV-B, Subpart 2 funding supports Tribal Nations efforts to strengthen families so children can avoid the trauma of being removed and placed in foster care, improve family functioning so children can be returned home safely after a removal, and promote permanency for children who cannot be returned home or placed with relatives. COVID-19 has increased the workload of tribal child welfare agencies to monitor and support families during this time of high anxiety and increasing social isolation, which can increase risks for child abuse and neglect. There are additional concerns related to the restrictions being placed on the delivery of services to families, such as in-home services that also factor into increased workload for tribal child welfare agencies as they navigate how to stay compliant with COVID-19 safe practices and adapt to virtual or telehealth services. The Title IV-B, Subpart 2 program funds in-home services that improve parenting skills for families at risk of child abuse and neglect, connect them to other service providers and support systems (*i.e.*, TANF, housing, behavioral health, and nutrition), provide temporary respite care to parents and caregivers, and help tribal agencies secure permanent placements for children who cannot return home safely.

Transportation and Housing

Transportation:

- **\$1 billion in Additional Funding to the Tribal Transportation Program**

Background: Indian Country's road mileage consists of approximately 4,720 miles of gravel, and 17,130 miles of unimproved and earth surface roads. With some of the worst road conditions in America, a wide array of roads, bridges, and other facilities, construction and improvement can immediately increase access to, from, and throughout Indian Country. As Tribal Nations continue to respond to COVID-19, transportation facilities remain essential community infrastructure that directly impacts Tribal Nations' ability to respond to COVID-19 and provide services to their citizens. Poor road conditions in Indian Country make it difficult for essential community service personnel such as police and emergency and medical responders to reach tribal communities and their citizens. The Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) provides funding for tribal transportation and public road access to and within Indian reservations, Indian lands, and Alaska Native Village communities. While H.R. 133 provided \$114.5 million to the TPP, an investment of \$1 billion in funding would support

Tribal Nations in rapidly addressing those transportation facilities critical and necessary to the delivery of essential services to respond to COVID-19.

Housing:

- **\$600 million in Additional Funding to the Indian Housing Block Grant Formula Distribution Portion, With Up To \$150 Million Withheld for the Indian Community Development Block Grants and Imminent Threat Projects Tribal Nations Propose as a Direct Response to COVID-19 Issues in Their Communities**

Background: To directly respond to COVID-19, new funds to tribal housing programs can lead to the quick development of temporary housing for health professionals, and safer assisted living housing for tribal citizens. Tribal communities also see overcrowded homes at a rate of 16 percent, roughly eight times the national average, which inhibits tribal communities from practicing safe ‘social distancing’ techniques that are required by the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding new construction across the board will help alleviate issues of overcrowding. Tribal Nations have the capacity and demonstrated success in the use of similar funding. In 2009, Tribal Nations received \$510 million in stimulus funding, which directly led to the creation of 1,954 new housing units, and the rehabilitation of 13,338 units. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Tribal Nations used over 99 percent of the funds that were provided, which surpassed many other programs that received stimulus funding. Additionally, tribal housing programs selected to receive \$200 million in competitive grant funding in December 2019 will be able to build close to 1,200 new units. The Tribal Nations selected and awarded represented only 25 percent of the applications, which demonstrates that Indian Country has shovel-ready projects and great need for this assistance.

- **\$3.75 billion from the Homeowner Assistance Fund for Eligible NAHASDA Recipients Using the Funding Allocation for Indian Housing Block Grants to Provide Urgently Needed Mortgage Assistance to Native American and Alaska Native Homeowners**

Background: In July 2020, leaders of the House Native American Caucus and at least 17 AI/AN organizations, which collectively serve all 574 federally-recognized Tribal Nations wrote to Congress requesting that the next COVID-19 response package retain the tribal provisions in the HEROES Act.⁶ The HEROES act included \$3.75 billion for the homeowner assistance fund for eligible Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) recipients using the funding allocation for the Indian Housing Block Grants. Since then, Congress has not passed any funding that provides direct mortgage assistance to tribal governments. The pandemic has drastically reduced tribal government revenues, impairing their ability to provide basic government services at a time when the demand for those very services are growing. Disproportionate impacts from the pandemic, including job losses and reduction in income, threaten to undo years of advocacy by tribal organizations and federal funding programs to promote increased homeownership in Indian Country. Congress should include this mortgage assistance in the next relief package to provide relief to AI/AN homeowners and promote housing stability in Indian Country. Policies that limit housing precarity have been found to reduce COVID-19 infections by 3.8 percent and reduce deaths by 11 percent.⁷ As

⁶ Letter from the House Native American Caucus, July 24, 2020, p. 3, https://www.ncai.org/Covid-19/legislative-updates/20.7.24 - NA_Caucus_Requests - House_COVID19_Stim_package - merged.pdf

⁷ National Bureau of Economic Research, Housing Precarity & the COVID-19 Pandemic: Impacts of Utility Disconnection and Eviction Moratoria on Infections and Deaths Across US Counties, Kay Jowers, Christopher Timmins, Nrupen Bhavsar, Qihui Hu, and Julia Marshall, NBER Working Paper No. 28394, p. 2, (January 2021)

COVID-19 continues to ravage tribal communities, promoting access to safe and affordable housing will save lives.

- **\$900 Million in Additional Funding to the Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) for Payments to Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHE) for Providing Short-or Medium-Term Assistance with Rent and Rent-Related Costs**

Background: Congress should include additional funding to tribal governments to provide rental assistance to their citizens and provide increased flexibility for the ERAP that broadens the allowable costs and include a technical fix that expressly allows tribal governments to assist their citizens regardless of whether they live within IHBG service areas.

- **Include Direct Tribal Eligibility for any Appropriations Related to Other General Federal Housing Programs**

Background: In addition to funding made directly to tribal governments and TDHE's, Congress should expressly include direct tribal eligibility for any appropriated amounts for other general federal housing programs, including homelessness assistance programs, mortgage assistance, and rental/utility assistance. At a time when many Americans are expected to need both mortgage, rental, or utility assistance, Tribal Nations and Native Americans must be included as eligible participants, either through express statutory language or direct set asides to Tribal Nations. As Congress considers funding existing national or state housing programs or creating new programs to address needs stemming from COVID-19 impacts, Congress must recognize that Tribal Nations are ineligible for many existing programs outside of NAHASDA, and that states and local partners often overlook tribal communities due to the existence of NAHASDA. Accordingly, Congress must expressly make Tribal Nations and tribal housing programs eligible entities to access any new funding or create specific set-asides for Tribal Nations to carry out similar housing assistance services provided through any COVID legislation.

Broadband and Tribal Governance

Tribal Governance:

- **\$950 million in Additional Funding for Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Priority Allocations Programs**

Background: Decades of neglect, underfunding, and inaction on behalf of the federal government have left tribal governments and their citizens severely under-resourced and at extreme risk during the COVID-19 crisis. In accordance with federal trust and treaty obligations, it is vital that Congress act to provide immediate, substantial support to Tribal Nations to maintain and augment essential government services during this time of national emergency. Failure to support the governmental activities of Tribal Nations will be disastrous for Tribal Nations, Native people, and surrounding communities and will result in an incomplete response to this crisis, affecting the nation at-large. Like all governments across the United States, Tribal Nations are working diligently to immediately respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The response is ongoing, and the costs associated with it continue to rise.

The CARES Act included \$453 million for BIA Operation of Indian Programs (OIP) funding, but the ongoing and intensifying nature of the COVID-19 pandemic requires additional resources. During implementation of the CARES Act, restrictions on the use of funds trapped certain funding from being used on otherwise eligible COVID relief needs. Tribal governments understand their unique needs best and funds received as part of ISDEAA funding agreements are already subject to annual audit. Less prescriptive legislative text is needed to promote tribal sovereignty and the efficient use of federal tax dollars for COVID relief. Tribal Nations are requesting \$950 million in additional funding for Indian Affairs Tribal Priority Allocation (TPA) programs and TPA-like programs (*e.g.*, Criminal Investigations & Police Services & Detention/Corrections) to fund essential tribal services. Responding to this pandemic is cost-intensive, and it impacts all aspects of tribal governance and life in tribal communities. Congress must ensure Tribal Nations have additional funding for COVID-19 response and recovery activities.

Broadband:

- **An Additional \$1 Billion to Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grants Program and Include Technical Fixes to the Program Established Under H.R. 133**

Background: Access to broadband internet for essential services, communications, and commerce is especially critical during the COVID-19 pandemic. Tribal communities are disproportionately unserved or underserved when it comes to access to high-speed internet. In 2018, the FCC estimated that 35 percent of Americans living on tribal lands lacked access to broadband services, compared to eight percent of all Americans. Funding is needed throughout Indian Country for rapid deployment, adoption, affordability, and access to broadband internet. COVID-19 has changed societal and market behaviors and driven more everyday tasks and activities online. Additional investment into tribal communities is necessary to ensure that tribal communities are not left behind as our education, healthcare, government services, and commerce undergo years of changes in months.

In support of these needs, an additional one billion should be appropriated to the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grants program established within the Department of Commerce by Congress in H.R. 133. Further, Congress should include technical fixes to this program to ensure the success of the program in serving tribal governments and communities, including: (1) extension for use of funds until 2024 to support infrastructure deployment; (2) clarify existing statutory language relating to the “duplication of funding” and ensure that any definition of “duplication of funding” does not prohibit tribal governments from accessing critical funding from this program on the basis of their receipt of federal funding through another federal broadband funding program; and (3) ensure increased appropriations are available to tribal governments and that tribal sovereignty is recognized by not listing Tribal Nations as an eligible “entity.”

Homeland Security and Emergency Service

- **Reaffirming Tribal Priorities and Address Roadblocks to Emergency Services by:**
 - **Making the 25 Percent Federal Cost Share Waiver Retroactive to Tribal Nations**
 - **Reversing FEMA’s September 15, 2020, Interim Public Assistance Policy**

Background: In 2020 Congress provided an additional \$25 billion for the COVID-19 nationwide emergency declared under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. While Tribal Nations are grateful for the substantial increase in funding, only fifteen percent of Indian Country, 89 Tribal Nations, have been able to access those funds through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).⁸ Tribal Nations are the first and often the only responders during disasters in their jurisdictions. Tribal Nations’ response to the COVID-19 pandemic is no different than how states are responding. Tribal leaders, staff, and citizens are putting their lives on the line daily to help protect both tribal and non-tribal citizens. However, unlike states, Tribal Nations have continued to experience insurmountable challenges in accessing the billions of dollars set aside to support COVID-19 response efforts. Tribal Nations in their May 26, 2020, letters to Congress identified several roadblocks that prevented tribal access to COVID-19 disaster resources.⁹ Those roadblocks continued to exist throughout 2020 and followed into 2021. The identified roadblocks must be removed to allow FEMA disaster resources to reach Indian Country.

Additionally, Tribal Nations urge Congress to make the January 21, 2021, FEMA Public Assistance non-federal cost share waiver retroactive as applied to Tribal Nations.¹⁰ Tribal Nations also urge Congress to affirm the broad scope of Public Assistance under the Stafford Act and reject the September 15, 2020, FEMA Interim Public Assistance Policy, which has severely limited actions that

⁸ Federal Emergency Management Agency, Coronavirus Pandemic Whole-of-America-Response, pg. 2 (Jan. 25, 2020).

⁹ Joint Tribal Letter to Senate Leadership, COVID-19 Legislative Proposal (Phase #4): Tribal Homeland Security and Emergency Services Priorities, pg. 7-8, [http://www.ncai.org/Covid-19/legislativeupdates/Tribal_Homeland_Security_and_Emergency_Services_Needs_and_Priorities_for_COVID-19_Phase_4 -](http://www.ncai.org/Covid-19/legislativeupdates/Tribal_Homeland_Security_and_Emergency_Services_Needs_and_Priorities_for_COVID-19_Phase_4_-_Senate_Letter.pdf)

[Senate_Letter.pdf](http://www.ncai.org/Covid-19/legislativeupdates/Tribal_Homeland_Security_and_Emergency_Services_Needs_and_Priorities_for_COVID-19_Phase_4_-_Senate_Letter.pdf), May 26, 2020; See Joint Tribal Letter to House Leadership, COVID-19 Legislative Proposal (Phase #4): Tribal Homeland Security and Emergency Services Priorities, pg. 7-8, [https://www.ncai.org/Covid-19/legislativeupdates/Tribal_Homeland_Security_and_Emergency_Services_Needs_and_Priorities_for_COVID-19_Phase_4 -](https://www.ncai.org/Covid-19/legislativeupdates/Tribal_Homeland_Security_and_Emergency_Services_Needs_and_Priorities_for_COVID-19_Phase_4_-_House_Letter.pdf)
[House_Letter.pdf](https://www.ncai.org/Covid-19/legislativeupdates/Tribal_Homeland_Security_and_Emergency_Services_Needs_and_Priorities_for_COVID-19_Phase_4_-_House_Letter.pdf)

¹⁰ The White House, Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security, Memorandum to Extend Federal Support to Governors’ Use of the National Guard to Respond to COVID-19 and to Increase Reimbursement and Other Assistance Provided to States, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/21/extend-federal-support-to-governors-use-of-national-guard-to-respond-to-covid-19-and-to-increase-reimbursement-and-other-assistance-provided-to-states/>.

Tribal Nations can take to save lives in their communities.¹¹ Tribal Nations must be reimbursed for life saving activities they took after September 2020, which would have been covered by the March 2020 FEMA Public Assistance Policy. The catastrophic health impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic respects no jurisdictional boundaries, and a cohesive national response is required to curtail the devastation. Congress must remove the ongoing roadblocks preventing Indian Country from accessing billions in FEMA disaster resources as soon as possible to support a cohesive national response.

¹¹ Federal Emergency Management Agency, Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic: Work Eligible for Public Assistance (Interim), FEMA Policy # 104-009-19 (Sept. 15, 2020).

COUNTY COVID-19 FINANCIAL RESPONSE

- Cook County is incredibly proud of the work we have done to provide millions of dollars of emergency relief throughout Cook County in a consistent, thorough and equitable way.
- Cook County received approximately \$429 million from the U.S. Treasury from the CARES Act. We started our work to get this money out to local governments immediately.
- First, we allocated \$51 million of this relief among the suburban municipalities located within Cook County and \$81.9 million to economic relief efforts for critical supportive services such as homeless sheltering and utility assistance. Small business support from Cook County is also going to recovery grants and technical assistance, workforce development through training and housing aid through rental and mortgage assistance.
- The distribution methodology created by Cook County was a first-of its-kind equity model determined through an equitable lens, with factors that included, but that were not limited to, immediate needs of the municipality to respond to the pandemic, municipal population, municipal median income and municipal public health statistics. We have included a link to a [Chicago Tribune story](#) detailing the equity model created for CARES Act fund distribution.
- The allocation method considered the rising COVID-19 related costs experienced by all municipalities, as well as the capacity of various municipalities within the County to respond to those costs in light of unequal historic and current investment in those communities. The white paper titled: [Subgrantee Allocation Process: An Equitable Distribution Model of Cook County's CARES Act Funding to Suburban Municipalities](#), details a funding allocation model developed by Cook County and CMAP, along with a description of the decision-making process used to develop the Sub-Grantee Allocation Method.
- Once the allocation method was applied to each local government the real work of implementation began. The distribution and collection of intergovernmental agreements and board ordinances across the County. Applications were evaluated using strict U.S Treasury guidelines and technical assistance was also provided on a weekly basis in the form of online office hours and on an ad hoc basis in response to applications we received. Additionally, a [website was created](#) to house all documents including presentations, frequently asked questions, forms and applications.
- Cook County did not stop there. We decided a second round of relief from Cook County was something that would do a great deal of good so we worked to distribute even more money. This included:
 - \$700,000 split between 25 fire protection districts in Cook County to cover payroll, PPE and other COVID-19 eligible costs as defined by the U.S. Treasury. These funds will provide crucial assistance to critical public services that have seen both an increase in emergency medical services and a decrease in public aid assistance.
 - \$5,000 each to each of 97 library districts across Cook County bringing the total relief funding to \$485,000. This was a calculated policy decision guided by the public's expanded reliance on public libraries for access to high speed internet during this pandemic. Extending and expanding internet availability at Cook County libraries is an important way to support equity and access in underserved areas.

- \$300,000 was made available to nearly 30 townships within Cook County offering a myriad of public services like senior services, transportation, mental health services and after school programs and 98 Park districts in Cook County were eligible to receive \$5,000.
- An additional \$12,000 was made available to each Cook County municipality to cover additional COVID costs incurred more recently.
- Cook County has allocated over \$48 of the \$51 million to 180 different units of government for categories including personal protective equipment, public health expenses like sanitizing supplies, and improving telework. A significant amount of the funds were used to cover public health and safety employees dedicated to mitigating and responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Some subrecipients shared that these funds would allow them to maintain staffing levels and avoid laying off and furloughing essential employees. A breakdown of these expenses can be found at the bottom of this document.
- By making this money to our local governments as well as our fire, park and library districts, we are doing important work supporting public safety and education. This has undoubtedly been an immense undertaking, but we are excited to be getting millions of additional dollars out the door.
- A fuller and more thorough breakout is available in our [monthly report to the Cook County Board of Commissioners](#). CRF allocations are separated into four different categories with specific data detailing the many expenses and needs being addressed.
 - **Suburban Municipalities:** Expenses including cost reimbursements for incurred and future eligible expenses
 - **Economic Development:** This includes the Cook County Recovery Loan Program and other short-term Bureau of Economic Development initiatives
 - **Operational Initiatives:** Costs for workspace redesign, telework capabilities, public Health initiatives, etc.
 - **Direct Costs:** Labor costs, agency cost reimbursement, PPE/cleaning supplies and facility cleaning/security costs, etc.

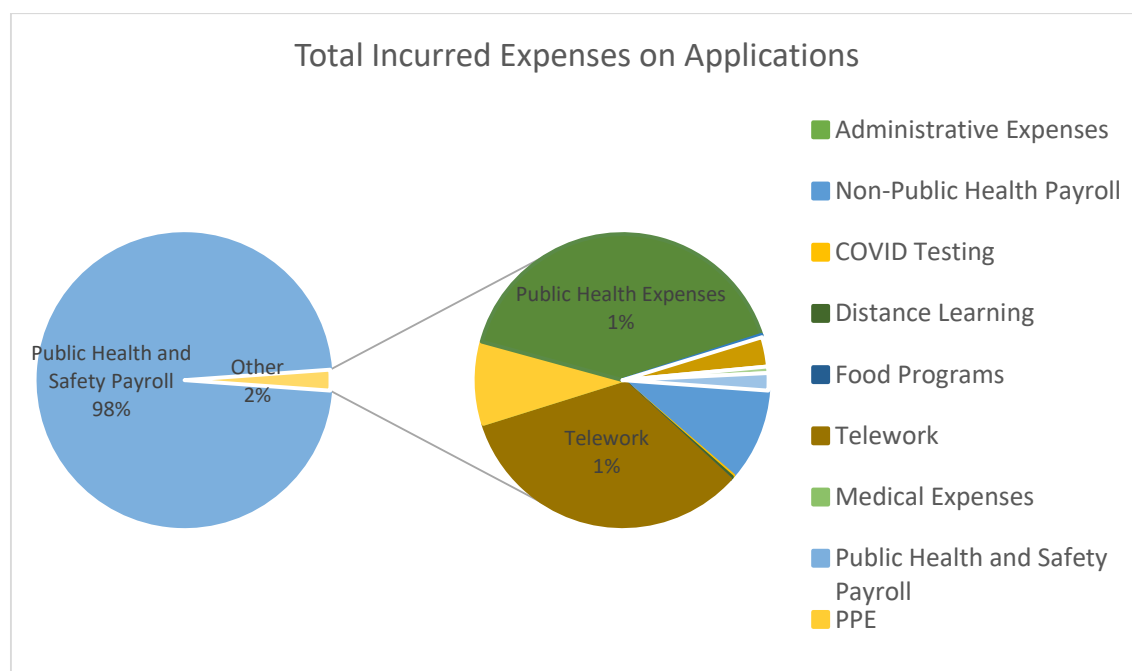
CONTINUED NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FEDERAL RELIEF

- The pandemic continues to create a tremendous strain on the finances of state and local governments across the country. While Cook County has instilled sound fiscal discipline, reduced headcount, closed billions of dollars of budget gaps and pushed for a more efficient government, it isn't immune to an economic downturn or recession.
- About 65% of Cook County revenue is considered economically sensitive with expected decreases in collections related to COVID-19. Cook County significant revenue losses this fiscal year as we've seen dramatic decreases in Sales Tax, Gasoline, Amusement, Parking and Hotel Taxes to name a few. This is also coupled with increases in COVID-19 related expenses the County has seen during the pandemic.
- Cook County is the Midwest's cultural and economic center. Home to 5.2 million residents, it is the second most populous county in the United States. Through an over \$6 billion budget, Cook County provides a system of vital services like running a system of safety net public hospitals and ambulatory clinics, operating the second largest unified court system in the United States and administering the second largest property tax system in the country.

- Without Federal support, local governments across the country will have to curtail services and make difficult cuts at a time when our residents need assistance most. This could also cause further economic contraction and only exacerbate financial difficulties throughout the country.
- Federal funds for lost revenue can serve as an important lifeline for local governments working to craft balanced budgets while preserving essential services. Declines in revenue caused by this pandemic are wreaking havoc on local budgets, jeopardizing essential services and impacting our day-to-day lives.

EXPENSE BREAKOUT

Expense Type	Amount
Administrative Expenses	\$ -
Non-Public Health Payroll	\$ 113,955
COVID Testing	\$ 2,345
Distance Learning	\$ 3,152
Food Programs	\$ 53
Telework	\$ 373,510
Medical Expenses	\$ -
Public Health and Safety Payroll	\$ 47,879,754
PPE	\$ 97,854
Public Health Expenses	\$ 446,785
Compliance Expenses	\$ 2,953
Other related expenses	\$ 36,565
FEMA Payroll Match	\$ 8,023
FEMA Materials Match	\$ 21,507
Total Incurred Expenses	\$ 48,986,457





AFSCME®

We Make America Happen

February 4, 2021

Danny Homan
President

Jusie Baker
Executive Vice President

Paula Martinez
Secretary-Treasurer

District 1
Vice Presidents

Dan Benshoof
Rhonda Fowler
Jim Klier

District 2
Vice Presidents

Sheila Lauenroth
Mike Morse
Susan Rowe

District 3
Vice Presidents

Chris De Harty
Daryl Erickson
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Shelly Hill
Curt Salow
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District 5
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Fodd Eaves
Neil LeMaster

District 6
Vice Presidents

Candace Acord
Ray Druger
Richard Frauenholz

District 7
Vice Presidents

Benedetta Culver
Feona Donald-Sullivan
Michelle Mason

Dear Members of the House Oversight Committee:

On behalf of the 40,000 people in Iowa, Missouri, and Kansas represented by American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Council 61, I urge you to support a coronavirus relief package that is based on President Biden's American Rescue Plan to provide aid as soon as possible.

Iowa, Missouri, and Kansas are suffering from one of the worst health and economic catastrophes ever. There have been nearly 450,000 deaths and millions of Americans have lost their jobs or are under-employed due to the pandemic. In these three states, more than 1.1 million COVID cases have resulted in 16,442 deaths. The U.S. economy lost more than 22 million jobs at the height of the pandemic last year, including 220,000 jobs across our territory. According to the Economic Policy Institute, 26.8 million workers—15.8% of the workforce—are being directly hurt by the coronavirus crisis. People are struggling to buy food and other necessities. There is also an escalating housing crisis and many people are struggling to pay rent or their mortgage.

Additionally, public services are under threat here in the Midwest. The impact of COVID-19 on state and local budgets is real. In Iowa, local communities are bearing the brunt of the pandemic's budgetary challenges, with Des Moines seeing a \$25 million cut to its budget, Iowa City seeing a reduction of \$5.2 million, and Ames forecasting a \$62 million drop in revenue for the next fiscal year from the current one. In Missouri, the state is looking at \$418 million less in revenue than the current fiscal year as they craft their state budget, and the City of St. Louis is anticipating a \$48 million loss in revenue in the current fiscal year on top of a \$21 million loss in revenue last year. In Kansas, legislators are looking at a decrease of \$152 million from last year's budget.

We must act quickly and boldly to get our country back on track. AFSCME Council 61 supports President Biden's \$1.9 trillion plan as a starting point for Congress to put together a robust economic recovery package. The plan includes \$600 billion to support public services, including \$350 billion in flexible aid to state and local governments, education funding, public transit funding, increased unemployment benefits, raising the minimum wage, direct cash payments, and eradicating the virus by providing funding for testing, contact tracing, vaccine distribution and PPE. Front-line workers like nurses, teachers, EMS, custodians, correctional officers, child-care providers and others continued working throughout the pandemic keeping communities safe and healthy. Flexible, direct aid is now needed to avoid deep cuts in vital public services and more layoffs.

Now is not the time to withhold or restrict needed spending. Substantial investment is urgently needed to help Americans that are suffering and to stimulate economic recovery.

Sincerely,

Danny Homan, President
AFSCME Council 61

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May 30, 2020

Dear Senator Perdue:

I pray that this correspondence finds you and your family in amazing health. I want to thank you for taking the time to speak with the GMA team, myself, and several other mayors from around the State a few weeks ago. As we all circle around the disappointment of this horrific COVID-19 pandemic, and how we move to stand up our cities, now our Nation is faced with the unwelcomed intrusion of anarchist and opportunist that continue to cause division. Unfortunately, the real message is getting lost in the mayhem!

As a city leader and a constituent, I am writing on behalf of Union City to urge you to support funding for all local governments in the next round of federal assistance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, we are asking for your support of legislation that provides emergency fiscal assistance to cities of all sizes, fair and direct allocations to all local governments, and maximum flexibility to use this funding to address the consequences of coronavirus on our cities.

The virus is taking a toll on first responders, utility workers, and sanitation workers who are out in the community every day putting their own lives at risk to protect the public's health and safety. Without federal support, the cities working so hard to provide these critical services, particularly small cities, will struggle to survive. So far, cities with fewer than 500,000 residents have been left behind in federal legislation to address the coronavirus. Immediate action is needed to support these communities.

In the City of Union City, our expenses have risen dramatically due to increases in personnel costs, purchase of operating supplies, and acquisition of equipment, such as PPE, IT equipment, cleaning and sanitizing supplies, etc. These were vital purchases that are continuing to be made in order to protect the public as well as our employees. Our revenues are also down significantly. In just one month, for example, sales tax revenue decreased by 23% and is expected to continue to decline by 35% - 40%. We are experiencing dramatic declines in fines and forfeitures with a decrease of \$88,000 in revenues in just the last 30 days. This combined with an overall decrease of 20% in hotel motel taxes poses serious fiscal concerns for our community. Additionally, many of our residents who have lost their jobs are unable to pay their water/sewer bills and sanitation bills. Our revenues are down by \$367,000 in a matter of 2-3 months, yet the expenses to operate water and wastewater systems and provide citywide services have not decreased proportionally. This results in choices we will soon have to make to eliminate jobs, including



public safety, close facilities, and cut back services, all things that will harm the very citizens we are elected to serve.

It is imperative that all Georgia cities receive federal funding to help us meet the needs in our communities. The services cities provide directly impact the quality of life to raise a family, create jobs, and provide hope for young people that they can have a bright future in their home town. Congress cannot turn a blind eye to the crisis our cities are facing, similar to the dire circumstances faced by businesses, states, and local governments over 500,000 that have received billions from the federal government. Our small cities are the backbone of this state and we are a primary reason Georgia has been named the #1 place to do business for 6 consecutive years. However, faced with major cuts in the services that attract business and industry, we cannot be successful in recruiting those businesses and their investments that make our cities what they are, the heart and soul of this state.

This crisis we face is not about local governments, it is about local residents, the very ones that all of us as elected officials, local, state and federal, take an oath to serve. This is the crisis of a generation and how we respond to it, with action and funding instead of partisan politics, will define our future in this state and in every city.

We request a favorable response to this letter and will be following this legislation closely to determine where our members of Congress stand in this time of crisis.

Best Regards,

Vince Williams
Mayor

Good evening Nick, Jessica, and Kaitlyn,

I am reaching out to flag this issue for you. GMA has learned that amendments have been filed that would remove state and local aid from the next COVID relief bill. Text of these amendments is attached. **On behalf of the Georgia Municipal Association and our 537 member cities, including all cities in GA-10, we are reaching out to urge your help in making sure that state and local relief including direct relief to ALL cities, is included in the next COVID-19 relief bill. This is the number one and most urgent priority for 2021 for our members - direct to cities of all sizes for pandemic relief.**

Without additional aid and an appropriate, fair, and equitable allocation of this aid for all municipal and county governments, a preventable setback in household and economic stability services, and vaccination distribution, will be unavoidable.

For the next package, GMA is asking on behalf of our member cities that Congressman Hice adhere to the following principles for direct intervention and prevention of local government fiscal decline resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic:

- **Emergency funding should be fair and appropriate for each and every local government, with no minimum population threshold for eligibility.**
- **Aid should be directly allocated through familiar and proven government revenue sharing programs.**
- **Entanglement of state and local funding should be minimized.**

Your support is critical to the cities in your district. Please let me know if we can count on Congressman Hice's support for this issue. More details are below.

Georgia cities went into the pandemic as prepared as they could be for this economic downturn, having learned from the Great Recession. Some were able to “weather the storm” by using reserves and through frugal management but many cities especially those relying on tourism and retail centers, have already seen a significant impact in revenues. Cities have also had to scale back or postpone capital projects – going into the pandemic, Georgia’s cities told GMA they need \$20 billion over five years for infrastructure improvements and those needs have not gone away. National economists and local officials in Georgia are aware there will be a long term impact to municipal revenues – well into 2022 and beyond. “Revenue losses” is just another way of saying cities will not be able to pay for key services without a lifeline from the federal government. Cities, and our communities, residents, and business, cannot afford to be left out once again when it comes to COVID relief.

Most Georgia cities have been left out of Congressional COVID relief bills to date. The \$150 billion Coronavirus Relief Fund enacted under the CARES Act provided essential supplemental assistance to state and some local governments to control the spread of COVID-19 and maintain essential services during a national public health crisis. Sadly, most of the funding failed to reach local governments. As an example, as of today, of the 537 cities and 159 counties in Georgia, only 1 city and 4 counties received direct funding as a result of meeting the population threshold of 500,000 residents. Confusion over congressional intent, delayed guidance, and well-intentioned but overly restrictive expenditure requirements complicated access to the funding for all cities. Ultimately, of the slightly more than \$4 billion that was allocated to the

State of Georgia for CARES Act CRF, only 13% (or just over \$371 million) went to local governments (cities and counties) under 500,000 population.

There is an urgent need among Georgia cities for federal COVID relief, and with federal funds, cities will be in a position to help protect the lives and livelihoods of all people in Georgia. Below are some ways Georgia cities could put federal dollars to work immediately if they have access in a new COVID relief bill.

- Grants to local businesses for things such as revenue losses that could result in closure, foreclosure avoidance, license payment assistance and utility payment assistance
- Grants to residents to help pay for utilities
- Transit to help residents get to work
- Assistance programs and resources for homeless population
- Community food resources
- Public health support – vaccine campaigns, facility rental and mobile vaccine vehicles for hard to reach populations
- Blocking off streets and parking lots or parking spaces to create outdoor dining areas/ creative partnerships with businesses on infrastructure solutions
- Update technology for residents to access city hall, vote, courts, drive in windows for payments and permits
- Improve broadband connectivity for schools and city facilities to help students and families with online learning and telemedicine

We appreciate your help with this issue. Please let me know if you have any questions or need more information.

Thanks,
Becky



Becky Taylor
Director of Federal Relations and Research
Office: 678-686-6276 Fax: 678-686-6376
www.gacities.com

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AFSCME Local 1644

260 Peachtree Street, NW • Suite 2200 • Atlanta, GA 30303 • 404.472.0028

February 5, 2021

Honorable Jody Hice
U.S. House of Representatives
404 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Hice,

On behalf of the 1,100 members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 1644, I urge you to support a coronavirus relief package that is based on President Biden's American Rescue Plan to provide aid as soon as possible.

Georgia and our country are suffering from one of the worst health and economic catastrophes ever. There have been nearly 450,000 deaths and millions of Americans have lost their jobs or are under-employed due to the pandemic. In Georgia, there have been approximately 928,070 COVID cases and 13,800 resulting deaths. The U.S. economy lost more than 22 million jobs at the height of the pandemic last year! According to the Economic Policy Institute, 26.8 million workers—15.8% of the workforce—are being directly hurt by the coronavirus crisis. People are struggling to buy food and other necessities. There is also an escalating housing crisis and many people are struggling to pay rent or their mortgage.

We must act quickly and boldly to get our country back on track. AFSCME Local 1644 supports President Biden's \$1.9 trillion plan as a starting point for Congress to put together a robust economic recovery package. The plan includes \$600 billion to support public services, including \$350 billion in flexible aid to state and local governments, education funding, public transit funding, increased unemployment benefits, raising the minimum wage, direct cash payments, and eradicating the virus by providing funding for testing, contact tracing, vaccine distribution and PPE. Front-line workers like nurses, teachers, EMS, custodians, correctional officers, child care providers and others continued working throughout the pandemic keeping communities safe and healthy. Flexible, direct aid is now needed to avoid deep cuts in vital public services and more layoffs that we face due to a 2.5 billion budget shortfall.

Now is not the time to withhold or restrict needed spending. Substantial investment is urgently needed to help Americans that are suffering and to stimulate economic recovery.

Sincerely,

Humeta Embry, Executive Director
AFSCME Georgia Local 1644, AFL-CIO



City of Tampa

Jane Castor, Mayor

Mayor's Office Administration

306 E. Jackson Street
Tampa, Florida 33602

Office: (813) 274-8251

Fax: (813) 274-7050

February 8, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building, H-222
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, S-221
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building, H-204
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, (Senate) Room: S-230
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leadership,

On behalf of the City of Tampa and its 400,000 residents, I am writing to urge swift passage and enactment of the American Rescue Plan, which includes \$350 billion in direct and flexible financial relief for our nation's cities. This will ensure that cities like Tampa are able to maintain vital services and continue to provide the necessary support our community needs.

Tampa and its frontline workers have played a critical role in stabilizing and moving our community forward through the pandemic. Direct funding to Tampa will cover costs related to COVID-19 including homelessness mitigation, rental assistance, workforce retraining, fire and police call responses, and security and maintenance of traffic at testing and vaccination sites. It will allow us to leverage public/private partnerships to rebuild our local economies and reduce the long-term impacts of COVID-19. Instead of being a drag on economic growth in the aftermath of the pandemic, the American Rescue Plan will make cities catalysts of recovery.

Our nation's cities are on the frontlines of fighting COVID-19 and its social and economic impacts, and will remain on the frontlines as we emerge from this difficult moment in history. We appreciate your support for our efforts to maintain public health while rebuilding local economies. America cannot recover if its cities cannot recover.

Sincerely,

Jane Castor, Mayor



July 30, 2020

Dear Senators Marco Rubio and Rick Scott,

On behalf of mayors from across the state of Florida, we are writing to request your support for direct federal funding for municipal governments to help mitigate the losses from COVID-19. And with the pandemic showing little sign of slowing down, we ask for your support to help us weather the economic impacts of this unprecedented and unexpected event.

COVID-19 has affected every Florida city, and it has resulted in major public health and safety challenges requiring significant demand for the critical services our cities provide. We not only help ensure the safety of our communities, but we also employ thousands of essential workers. As we face diminished revenues, any cuts to our staff impact both the ability to provide those services and contribute to our economic downturn. Absent direct federal assistance, we will be forced to cut our workforce, exacerbating the economic and public health crisis we face.

Additionally, many local business owners are still struggling to stay open and to keep their dreams alive. Federal assistance would allow cities to continue to support those businesses, and the jobs they provide, through low-interest loans, grants and other innovative and impactful programs.

Florida has received more than \$8.3 billion from the Coronavirus Relief Fund, and while we appreciate your efforts to try to address these issues in the previous round of federal relief packages, due to the population thresholds in the CARES Act, **only one Florida city qualified for direct federal support.**

Some proposals currently being considered by Congress would allow state/local governments to use CARES Act dollars to make up lost revenue. Since 410 of FL's 411 cities were excluded from the CARES Act, this is **not going to solve the problem, and that's why additional funding is needed.** In fact, expanding the use of previously distributed dollars may serve as an even bigger disincentive and may encourage recipient counties to not share the dollars they received.

We need Congress to pass dedicated and flexible funding for cities in the next stimulus package. This is **not a request for a handout, nor a call for a federal bailout.** Direct emergency funding to municipalities focused on COVID-19 will help to support local jobs and small businesses, protect local first responders and residents, maintain essential services and keep neighborhoods safe.

Our cities have been an important part of the COVID-19 response. We must also be an important part of the recovery.

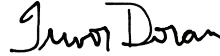
Sincerely,
Florida Mayors



Gib Coerper
Mayor
Alachua



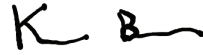
Pat Bates
Mayor
Altamonte Springs



Trevor Doran
Mayor
Altha



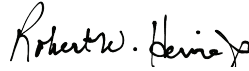
Dan Murphy
Mayor
Anna Maria



Kevin Begos
Mayor
Apalachicola



Bryan Nelson
Mayor
Apopka



Robert W. Heine, Jr.
Mayor
Arcadia



Iris Bailey
Mayor
Archer



Mitchell Mack
Mayor
Astatula



Ellen Glasser
Mayor
Atlantic Beach



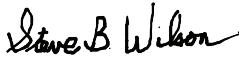
Garrett Anderson
Mayor
Avon Park



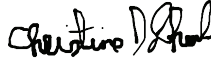
Scott Sjoblom
Mayor
Bartow



Stephanie Bruder
Mayor
Bay Harbor Islands



Steve B. Wilson
Mayor
Belle Glade



Christine Dobkowski
Mayor
Bellevue



Virginia O'Halpin
Mayor
Biscayne Park



Scott Singer
Mayor
Boca Raton



James E. Sims, Jr.
Mayor
Bonifay



Peter Simmons
Mayor
Bonita Springs



Steven Spinks
Mayor
Bowling Green



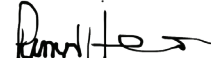
John R. Chappie
Mayor
Bradenton Beach



Heather Willis
Mayor
Bristol



Catherine D. Robinson
Mayor
Bunnell



Pam Henderson
Mayor
Callaway



Danny E. Taylor
Interim Mayor
Campbellton



Robert E. Hoog
Mayor
Cape Canaveral



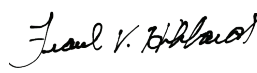
Joe Coviello
Mayor
Cape Coral



Brenda J. La Paz
Mayor
Carrabelle



Jim Walts
Mayor
Center Hill



Frank Hibbard
Mayor
Clearwater



Mali Gardner
Mayor
Clewiston



Ben Malik
Mayor
Cocoa Beach



Greg Ross
Mayor
Cooper City



J. B. Whitten
Mayor
Crestview



Camille Hernandez
Mayor
Dade City



Lori Lewellen
Mayor
Dania Beach



Judy Paul
Mayor
Davie



Nancy Miller
Mayor
Daytona Beach Shores



Karen Chasez
Mayor
DeBary



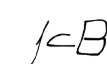
Bill Ganz
Mayor
Deerfield Beach



Robert F. Apgar
Mayor
DeLand



Heidi Herzberg
Mayor
Deltona



Juan Carlos Bermudez
Mayor
Doral



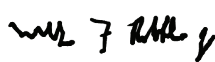
Julie W. Bujalski
Mayor
Dunedin



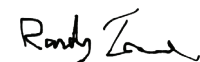
John Dowless
Mayor
Edgewood



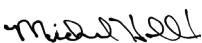
Claudia V. Cubillos
Mayor
El Portal



William F. Ribble Jr.
Mayor
Estero



Randy Torrance
Council President
Esto



Michael Holland
Mayor
Eustis



Howell Grimm, Jr.
Mayor
Everglades City



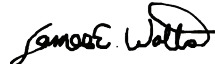
Joel Tyson
Mayor
Fellsmere



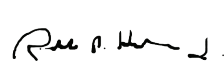
Linda Provencher
Mayor
Flagler Beach



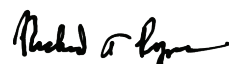
Dean J. Trantalis
Mayor
Fort Lauderdale



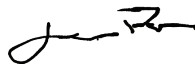
James E. Watts
Mayor
Fort Meade



Randall P. Henderson, Jr.
Mayor
Fort Myers



Richard A. Rynearson
Mayor
Fort Walton Beach



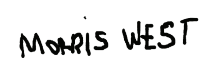
Lauren Poe
Mayor
Gainesville



Del Yonts
Mayor
Grant-Valkaria



Cherry Fitch
Mayor
Gulf Breeze



Morris L. West
Mayor
Haines City



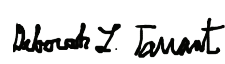
Joy F. Cooper
Mayor
Hallandale Beach



Matthew D. Surrency
Mayor
Hawthorne



Carlos Hernandez
Mayor
Hialeah



Deborah L. Tarrant
Mayor
Hillsboro Beach



Josh Levy
Mayor
Hollywood



Judy Titsworth
Mayor
Holmes Beach



Steven D. Losner
Mayor
Homestead



Martha MacFarlane
Mayor
Howey-in-the-Hills



Michael C. Brown
Mayor
Hypoluxo



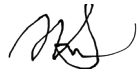
Dave Berkman
Mayor
Indianapolis



Scott Nickle
Mayor
Indian Harbour Beach



Thomas F. Slater
Mayor
Indian River Shores



Patrick Soranno
Mayor
Indian Shores



Drinda Merritt
Mayor
Inglis



Michael Forster
Mayor
Islamorada, Village of Islands



Charlie Latham
Mayor
Jacksonville Beach



Daniel J. Comerford, III
Mayor
Jupiter Inlet Colony



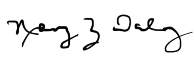
Whitney Pidot
Mayor
Jupiter Island



John DeNeale
Mayor
Key Colony Beach




Jose A. Alvarez
Mayor
Kissimmee



Nancy Z. Daley
Mayor
Lake Alfred



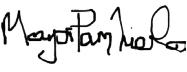
Daisy Raisler
Mayor
Lake Helen



John M. Holbrook
Mayor
Lake Placid



Eugene L. Fultz
Mayor
Lake Wales



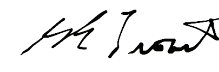
Pam Triolo
Mayor
Lake Worth Beach



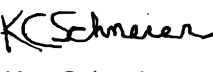
Hazelle P. Rogers
Mayor
Lauderdale Lakes



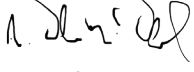
Kenneth Thurston
Mayor
Lauderhill



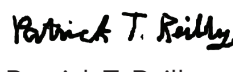
Glenn Troast
Mayor
Lighthouse Point



Ken Schneier
Mayor
Longboat Key



A. Dale McDonald
Mayor
Maitland



Patrick T. Reilly
Mayor
Malabar



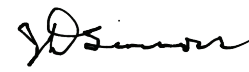
Margaret McLemore
Mayor
Mary Esther



Roberto Martell
Mayor
Medley



Kathy Meehan
Mayor
Melbourne



Jim Simmons
Mayor
Melbourne Beach



Francis Suarez
Mayor
Miami



Joseph L. Aufmuth
Mayor
Micanopy



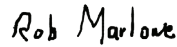
Heather F. Lindsay
Mayor
Milton



Teresa Heitmann
Mayor
Naples



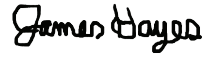
Elaine E. Brown
Mayor
Neptune Beach



Robert Marlowe
Mayor
New Port Richey



Jordan Marlowe
Mayor
Newberry



James Hayes
Mayor
Noma



Brent Latham
Mayor
North Bay Village



Ana M. Ziade
Mayor-At-Large
North Lauderdale



Matthew Sparks
Mayor
Oakland Park



Kent Guinn
Mayor
Ocala



Karen Ostrand
Mayor
Ocean Breezes



Eric Seidel
Mayor
Oldsmar



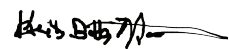
Matthew Pigatt
Mayor
Opa-locka



Gary A. Blair
Mayor
Orange City



Buddy Dyer
Mayor
Orlando



Keith W. Babb, Jr.
Mayor
Pahokee



Terrill L. Hill
Mayor
Palatka



William Capote
Mayor
Palm Bay



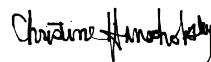
Alan D. Fiers
Mayor
Palm Beach Shores



Carol M. McCormack
Mayor
Palm Shores



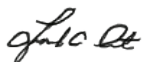
Gregory M. Brudnicki
Mayor
Panama City



Christine Hunschofsky
Mayor
Parkland



Ashira Mohammed
Mayor
Pembroke Park



Frank C. Ortis
Mayor
Pembroke Pines



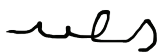
Grover C. Robinson, IV
Mayor
Pensacola



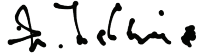
Alan Hall
Mayor
Perry



Sandra L. Bradbury
Mayor
Pinellas Park



Lynn Stoner
Mayor
Plantation



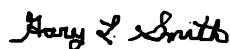
Joe LaCascia
Mayor
Polk City



Rex Hardin
Mayor
Pompano Beach



Laura Johnson
City Council
Ponce De Leon



Gary Smith
Mayor
Ponce Inlet



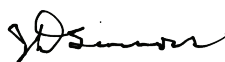
William R. Buzzett
Mayor
Port St. Joe



Gregory J. Oravec
Mayor
Port St. Lucie



Nancy Prafke
Mayor
Punta Gorda



Nick J. Simons
Mayor
Redington Beach



Art Woodruff
Mayor
Sanford



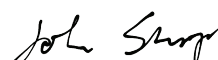
Kevin Ruane
Mayor
Sanibel



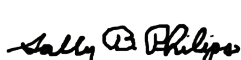
Jen Ahearn-Koch
Mayor
Sarasota



Ed Dodd
Mayor
Sebastian



John C. Shoop
Mayor
Sebring



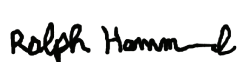
Sally Philips
Mayor
South Miami



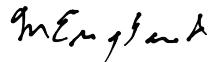
Bernice Fischer
Mayor
South Palm Beach



Arthur Penny
Mayor
South Pasadena



Ralph Hammond
Mayor
Springfield



Margaret England
Mayor
St. Augustine Beach



William G. Thiess
Mayor
St. Lucie Village



Rick D. Kriseman
Mayor
St. Petersburg



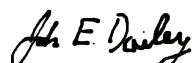
Al Johnson
Mayor
St. Pete Beach



Mike Meier
Mayor
Stuart



Michael J. Ryan
Mayor
Sunrise



John E. Dailey
Mayor
Tallahassee



Michelle J. Gomez
Mayor
Tamarac



Jane Castor
Mayor
Tampa



Abby Brennan
Mayor
Tequesta



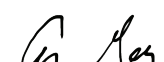
Fred Spencer Deno, IV
Mayor
Virginia Gardens



Richard Keith Nadaskay, Jr.
Mayor
Wauchula



Bobby Yost
Mayor
Webster



Anne Gerwig
Mayor
Wellington



Keith A. James
Mayor
West Palm Beach



Eric H. Jones, Jr.
Mayor
West Park



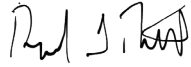
Daniel J. Stermer
Mayor
Weston



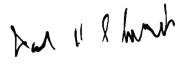
Jerry Robinson
Mayor
Williston



Jim O'Brien
Mayor
Windermere



Bradley T. Dantzler
Mayor
Winter Haven



Jack Schofield
Mayor
Yankeetown



MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR

February 7, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

As Mayor, I am proud to represent 712,000 residents who make Washington, DC their home, but I also graciously accept the serious charge of safeguarding the employees of the federal government and the millions of visitors that come to the National Capital Region each year. I write to support President Biden's American Rescue Plan, and urge Congress to implement the plan as soon as possible, particularly as it pertains to the \$350 billion proposal for additional state and local funding. Providing direct, flexible aid to localities is the most efficient and immediate way to help families and communities who have been suffering for far too long. I ask Congress to include the following elements of the HEROES Act that are important to the District of Columbia:

- Provisions included in the "Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act" (HEROES Act) amending the "Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act" (CARES Act), to make the District whole in the amount of \$755 million to correct the misclassification in the CARES Act.
- Provisions included in the HEROES Act to provide fiscal relief to the District of Columbia at each level of government. Unlike other jurisdictions that can share responsibility and resources when addressing the coronavirus, we have the responsibility of providing all levels of the response, including state, county, and local responses. Funding using the HEROES Act framework would help ensure that the District of Columbia is sufficiently resourced to address the ongoing effects of the pandemic.

The coronavirus has already had a lasting impact on our economy. DC's Fiscal Year 2021 Local Budget Act of 2020 reflects a conservative loss of \$1 billion in revenues by the end of this fiscal year. Additional federal financial aid is sorely needed. We have fully obligated the \$495 million in existing coronavirus relief funding, and we have used our entire \$212 million fiscal stabilization reserve and \$517 million, or nearly 80 percent, of the District's local contingency reserve, to respond to the pandemic.

The coronavirus relief fund and our local reserves have been critical to supporting the District of Columbia's response to the pandemic. Funds have been used to support COVID-19 testing; contact tracing; PPE purchases; protective measures for elections and reopening schools and government facilities; hospital surge capacity; food assistance; housing and rental assistance; homelessness and shelter services; technology to support telework and new call centers; and small business grants to support our restaurants, hotels, retail and sports and entertainment venues.

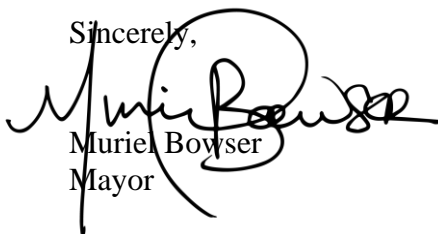
Since March 2020, my team has worked hard to mitigate the spread of the deadly coronavirus, support communities and businesses struggling due to the pandemic, and begin to drive our economic recovery and return to relative normalcy. To date, the District of Columbia has tested over 440,000 individuals, approximately 30% of which were provided to non-DC residents. According to the Johns Hopkins University, the District of Columbia ranks seventh amongst states and territories for tests provided per 100,000 residents¹. Additionally, we continue to rank first in the country regarding vaccine distribution, with 22,660 vaccines distributed per 100,000 residents².

The District's Unemployment Trust fund is also under stress due to the pandemic and the District cannot turn to the Coronavirus Relief Fund for assistance, as other states are doing. The District paid nearly \$1.3 billion in unemployment benefits in FY20, over \$1.1 billion more than FY2019. This high spend rate is continuing into FY21, where the District has made payments of nearly \$375 million to date. Due to this dramatic increase in payments, the District's Unemployment Trust Fund is projected to be depleted before March 2021. Further, projections estimate \$110 million in currently unfunded benefits will become due during Fiscal Year 2021 and \$200 million in currently unfunded benefits will become due through the end of Fiscal Year 2023.

The pandemic has presented unforeseen challenges from health, human, and economic standpoints that we haven't seen for generations. Local solutions to shore up the District's finances, without drastic cuts to critical staff and services are nearing exhaustion. As the trajectory of the coronavirus remains unclear, the District cannot sustain its current response without significant federal support, especially considering the new potentially more dangerous variants that have begun to appear in the United States and the region. As the seat of the federal government, whose staff, including your own, come from across the country, we are uniquely concerned about the possibility of a new wave of cases facing the District in the coming weeks and months. Additional, equitable state and local aid is critical to ensuring the District of Columbia can continue to respond to the ever-evolving circumstances rapidly and efficiently.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or my Senior Advisor, Beverly Perry at Beverly.Perry@dc.gov.

Sincerely,



Muriel Bowser
Mayor

¹ <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/testing/states-comparison>

² <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations>

Fact Sheet: What has the District of Columbia spent the \$495 million in Coronavirus Relief Funds on?

The wide eligibility guidelines of the Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) allowed the District to spend the allotment on a variety of response and recovery measures. Some of the most notable expenditures include overtime pay for public safety employees, \$58.3 million for small business grants, school modification and reopening efforts, increased rental assistance, and unemployment insurance payments. About \$45 million was reserved for FEMA Public Assistance local match, but if the 100% match resulting from new FEMA guidance is retroactive for all expenditures, this will no longer be needed and can be repurposed to other urgent needs.

Summary of COVID State Fund Allocations (as of 2/5/21)

Item	Amount
Public Safety and Health Pay/OT - FY 20	\$182,171,924
Small Business Assistance	\$58,300,000
Public Safety and Health Pay/OT - FY 21	\$37,667,310
FEMA PA match	\$36,452,752
School Building Readiness and Emergency Childcare	\$33,602,885
Office of Contracts and Procurement COVID 19 expenses	\$27,502,303
Healthcare Services	\$20,935,713
UI Administration + Improvements	\$17,304,940
Reopen	\$13,307,099
Housing Assistance	\$13,172,807
Family Rehousing and Stabilization	\$12,950,000
Local Stimulus Payments	\$11,444,000
Homelessness & Shelter Services	\$9,786,604
Alternative Care Site Public Assistance Local Match	\$9,568,648
IT Supports and Services for telework	\$7,774,412
Food Assistance	\$3,196,667
Total	\$495,138,063

STATE OF KANSAS

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 241 SOUTH
TOPEKA, KS 66612



PHONE: (785) 296-3232
GOVERNOR.KANSAS.GOV

GOVERNOR LAURA KELLY

February 11, 2021

The Honorable Sharice Davids
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rep. Davids:

Your support and efforts are critical as we work to protect Kansans and reinvigorate our economy while combating the Coronavirus. As state and local governments approach the start of the second year of response to the coronavirus pandemic, I am encouraged by the cooperation between Kansas's federal and state officials. I am confident that your efforts will keep Kansans safe and poised for the recovery that we anticipate.

I am encouraged to learn that legislation is under consideration to provide \$350 billion to state, county, and city governments. I have joined my fellow governors repeatedly over the past year to call for increased assistance for state and local governments on the front line of the coronavirus battle. The Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) in the CARES Act was an important step, but we are now almost a year past this first effort. More can be done to boost the state and local response as every agency of our governments struggles with the effects of COVID-19.

I appreciate your hard work on behalf of Kansas communities. You and your colleagues have my support for this legislative proposal.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Kelly".

Laura Kelly
Governor of Kansas



January 28, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Democratic Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressional Leaders:

The nearly 40,000 county elected officials and more than 3 million county employees across the nation remain focused on addressing the devastating, and unfortunately, enduring impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including through our county public health officials, health care providers, public safety personnel and other essential frontline leaders. As this unprecedented global health pandemic continues to evolve and reach further into our communities, **we urge your bipartisan support and immediate passage of the local government aid outlined in the President's American Rescue Plan.**

We want to acknowledge the invaluable aid that our federal partners have already provided in previous bills. These resources were invested prudently in our local public health mitigation and response, such as PPE, testing and contact tracing, for essential workers and the public. As part of our local community services, counties also concentrated on service gaps for our most vulnerable residents and small businesses, especially the basic nutrition and shelter needs of our seniors, youth, sick and unemployed. Broadband access for school children and remote workers, along with job placement and workforce training for the unemployed, remain other areas of significant focus. Unfortunately, far too many counties never received any, or very limited, federal resources, based on statutory population thresholds and state sub-allocation decisions. Unfortunately, the pressing challenges and needs facing our counties continue to outstrip our local resources.

Even with these much-appreciated federal dollars, the immense scale and growing needs facing our counties are far outstripping our local resources. While most of the federal dialogue has focused on the outlook of state and local revenues, it is important to recognize the historic community and resident needs that are far beyond normal times. This unprecedented pandemic has killed more than 400,000 Americans, dislocated a record number of workers, crushed countless small businesses, and impacted our children's learning and growth. In most places, it has also stretched, beyond our wildest imaginations, county resources and services for public health, substance abuse and mental health, child protective care, coroners and medical examiners, housing, food and nutrition, and broadband access. In response, county officials have dug into local financial reserves, reallocated local resources, and have made hard decisions to cut non-essential services and staff to stay afloat during these difficult times.

County leaders are serious, prudent stewards of public dollars. We remain very concerned about mounting federal debt. Yet, we also understand that we must overcome this devastating pandemic together, now, so we can make the smart investments needed to pursue a brighter, more resilient future for all our residents and communities. As Henry Kissinger asserted, “The historic challenge for leaders is to manage the crisis while building the future.”

As important ground-level partners in our nation’s intergovernmental system, county leaders are not looking for an unlimited federal handout. We support coordinating a stronger federal-state-local framework that ensures federal resources are invested appropriately, with a strategic focus on COVID-19 impacts and future community resiliency. We embrace robust public accountability and transparency standards, and we welcome the opportunity to discuss any necessary safeguards.

We know that the only way to unlock the full economic potential and protect the wellbeing of the nation is to overcome the current global public health emergency. Our immediate charge remains to help mitigate the COVID-19 virus, keep our local businesses alive, and serve our most vulnerable residents and frontline heroes. County leaders are also faithful to the American tradition of building back better after a major national crisis. The reality is that this will take additional federal investments that leverage and supplement the local efforts of our counties and local tax base.

We respectfully urge Congress and the White House to work together in a bipartisan manner to ensure our county leaders – and our local communities – have the resources, decision-making powers and flexibility necessary to overcome this massive national emergency and to ensure our nation is better prepared for future pandemics and disasters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew D. Chase". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Matthew" being more prominent and the last name "Chase" following in a similar style.

Matthew D. Chase
CEO/Executive Director



SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

Johnnie Wright Sr., President
Orangeburg County

Timothy C. Winslow
Executive Director

February 5, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Mace
United States House of Representatives
212 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Mace:

On behalf of South Carolina's 46 counties, we urge your support and immediate passage of direct aid to each county in South Carolina.

Thanks to the financial assistance Congress provided in previous bills, our counties were able to work with the State and were reimbursed for much of the unexpected budgetary costs our county taxpayers lost as a result of this pandemic. Unfortunately, because 45 of the 46 counties did not receive direct aid, our response was limited. Greenville County, the sole South Carolina local government recipient of direct aid, used \$70 million in CARES Act dollars for its Small Business Assistance program. The program distributes one-time grants of up to \$10,000 to firms with no more than 50 FTEs. The county also established a Minority Small Business Assistance program with \$5 million in CRF dollars to provide grants to small businesses. SCAC knows that given the opportunity, all South Carolina counties will use federal aid aggressively to reverse the impact of this virus on both our communities' health and economies.

As you know, counties, as the general government closest to the people, are the "boots on the ground" in this fight. We will defeat this virus and South Carolina and our country will emerge stronger. Your South Carolina counties believe in public accountability and transparency and will ensure the public is aware of our use of any federal funds distributed. South Carolina counties are committed to defeat the COVID-19 virus, keep our local businesses alive, and serve our most vulnerable residents and frontline heroes. For South Carolina to fully recover, it will take additional federal investments that leverage and supplement the local efforts of our counties and local tax base.

Congresswoman Mace, we loved working with you when you were in the General Assembly and we are excited that we will be able to work with you in Congress. Please pass this direct aid to ensure South Carolina counties have the resources, decision-making power and flexibility necessary to overcome this crisis and lead our nation to a brighter future.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Tim Winslow
South Carolina Association of Counties
Executive Director

Nancy,
Super Proud to have
a Citadel Grad in
Washington! Call
me if you need
anything from the
Counties!

Tim
Class. P. 92



110 W. Michigan Ave., Suite 200
Lansing, MI 48933
517-372-5374 Fax 517-482-4599
www.micounties.org
Stephan W. Currie, Executive Director

Feb. 10, 2021

Sen. Debbie Stabenow 731 Hart Senate Washington, DC 20510	Sen. Gary Peters 724 Hart Senate Washington, DC 20510	Rep. Jack Bergman 414 Cannon Washington, DC 20515	Rep. Bill Huizenga 1217 Longworth Washington, DC 20515
Rep. Peter Meijer 106 Cannon Washington, DC 20515	Rep. John Moolenaar 117 Cannon Washington, DC 20515	Rep. Daniel Kildee 227 Cannon Washington, DC 20515	Rep. Fred Upton 2183 Rayburn Washington, DC 20515
Rep. Tim Walberg 2436 Rayburn Washington, DC 20515	Rep. Elissa Slotkin 1531 Longworth Washington, DC 20515	Rep. Andy Levin 228 Cannon Washington, DC 20515	Rep. Lisa McClain 211 Cannon Washington, DC 20515
Rep. Haley Stevens 227 Cannon Washington, DC 20515	Rep. Debbie Dingell 116 Cannon Washington, DC 20515	Rep. Rashida Tlaib 1628 Longworth Washington, DC 20515	Rep. Brenda Lawrence 1213 Longworth Washington, DC 20515

Dear Members of the Michigan Congressional Delegation,

On behalf of Michigan's 83 counties, we urge you to support the COVID-19 relief package for citizens and local government.

We sincerely appreciate the previous relief measures provided in 2020. However, the public health and economic impacts of the pandemic continue to grow. Another package is imperative to ensure Michigan's 83 counties can continue to respond properly to the pandemic.

Fortunately, the proposal from the Biden administration would be of significant benefit to Michigan, with \$65.1 billion to be sent to counties based on their population. Each Michigan county would have access to federal aid for their frontline work against the pandemic.

The aid is structured so that counties can apply and get funds directly and not have to wait to be reimbursed for spending. This will help protect from service disruptions at the local level. And counties can even suballocate to nonprofits and others who are delivering complementary services such as food aid.

The proposal also includes \$117 million to promote transparency and accountability, two points that MAC and the National Association of Counties have strongly supported in previous COVID relief measures and proposals.

Our members are comfortable with, even eager, to “show their work” with federal support, be it via contact tracing from Michigan’s county-based public health departments or the economic response, as exemplified by Kent County’s commitment of \$35 million in previous COVID aid to small businesses.

As this legislation moves through the House and Senate in upcoming weeks, we urge you to provide your support to it.

Thank you again for your service to our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Currie', with a horizontal line underneath.

Stephan W. Currie
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Veronica Klinefelt', written in a cursive style.

Veronica Klinefelt
Board President



Mayor

15151 E. Alameda Parkway, 5th Floor

Aurora, Colorado 80012

office 303.739.7015

fax 303.739.7594

email mcoffman@auroragov.orgWorth Discovering • AuroraGov.org

February 4, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the city of Aurora, Colorado, I urge you to take swift and urgent action on a comprehensive coronavirus relief package that includes direct, flexible funding for all cities as called for in President Biden's American Rescue Plan.

American cities and our essential workers have served at the frontlines of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The city of Aurora has a \$26 million budget shortfall for 2020 and projects a shortfall of \$32 million for 2021. Capital projects and equipment replacement budgets have been impacted as projects and purchases are deferred to balance costs. A hiring freeze has been implemented, impacting all city departments, and employees are facing furloughs in 2021. All governmental functions will likely be impacted in 2021 if additional furloughs or other personnel cost savings measures are put into place.

The direct assistance provided in previous packages have helped our community provide critical housing, health, nutrition, and small businesses assistance, and relief for our underserved and essential workers. With additional, direct federal assistance for local governments, our community could: continue our rental assistance program; continue assisting those experiencing homelessness through provision of non-congregant shelters; support the city's low-income water bill assistance program; continue to provide food assistance; and assist small businesses affected by restrictions on gatherings.

The \$350 billion in direct relief to state and municipal governments included in the American Rescue Plan allows for the preservation of critical jobs and our ability to push economic recovery efforts forward. We urge you to include this critical funding in the next coronavirus relief package.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Coffman", written over a horizontal line.

Mike Coffman
Mayor

February 9, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

CC:

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Minority Leader, United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Chuck Schumer, Majority Leader, United States Senate
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader, United States Senate

RE: Federal Support for Local Governments

Dear President Biden:

We would first like to congratulate you on your November election and your recent inauguration. We look forward to working closely together over the coming months and years.

Thank you for your work in crafting the American Rescue Plan that responds to the scale of this crisis. We greatly appreciate your effort and dedication to aiding our nation's rescue and recovery as we collectively work to overcome the public health, economic, and fiscal challenges posed by the pandemic and build back better. Notably, we welcome your early action to eliminate the local cost share for FEMA and National Guard expenses around the pandemic, which will greatly help our communities.

We jointly author this letter as the Chief Financial Officers and Finance Directors of some of America's largest municipalities. Throughout this pandemic and accompanying economic crisis, cities have taken an outsized leadership role in the design and implementation of measures and programs to aid our residents and maintain a strong economy. Yet even the strong leadership our cities have demonstrated has not been enough to avoid the pain. Further, the pandemic and economic crisis have disproportionately affected our most vulnerable residents. Local governments, which work with these populations most directly, are in great need of additional resources.

As you are aware, the crux of the challenge facing cities is that demand and need for core local government services has increased significantly over the last year. At the same time, cities have realized unprecedented levels of revenue loss due to the economic impact of the pandemic and measures required to maintain public health. Funds allocated to local governments from the Coronavirus Relief Fund helped to ease some of this burden and to address our most urgent needs in fighting this crisis. However, significant challenges remain.

The monumental and historic nature of this crisis requires significant and ongoing federal support for Covid relief. Federal support that stimulates economic growth and promotes job growth is of utmost importance. Given the long-term reality of the pandemic, flexible, sustained, and direct funding is paramount – particularly, funding for local governments.

Such federal support has been billed by some as a bailout for states' and local governments' fiscal mismanagement or poor planning. Nothing could be further from the truth. The stress placed on cities' operating budgets over the last year has been nearly entirely due to the economic fallout of the pandemic. These budget shortfalls are not just administrative procedures or abstract accounting – they have real and serious consequences. Historic levels of revenue losses without federal aid has forced many cities to contemplate – or enact – service cuts, lay-offs, hiring freezes, and furloughs. All of these measures have counter-stimulative effects and dig a deeper economic hole.

As the public officials tasked with the responsibility of appropriately allocating federal funding to address Covid's challenges and limit its toll on the core services we provide to our residents, we write to you to

request maximum flexibility for the use of federal funds. We would like to offer several recommendations as you work to develop existing and future program guidance.

Specifically, we urge the following actions to restore core services levels in the near term and save federal funds in the future through advanced refunding and long-term government innovation investments:

- **Direct and flexible funding to localities.** Our top priority is direct funding for municipalities with as flexible terms as possible. It is critical this funding flows directly to cities. We thank you for including \$350 billion for direct aid to states and municipalities in your proposal. To shore up our local finances, we cannot overemphasize the importance of direct funding that will allow for revenue loss as an eligible expense. In the absence of this support, cities with little financial flexibility will continue to be forced to take counter-stimulant measures such as layoffs or furloughs.
- **Municipal finances.** To shore up our finances for the long-term, we urge consideration of the following measures:
 - **Advance refunding:** We urge restoration of the ability for advanced refunding, which was eliminated in the Tax Cut and Jobs Act. This elimination significantly limited our cities' flexibility in generating savings from refinancing into a lower interest rate market. Restoring the ability to issue tax-exempt advance refunding would allow us to generate hundreds of millions of additional savings.
 - **Long-term markets.** We encourage the Administration to expand options for municipalities to access long-term markets. The Federal Reserve's Municipal Liquidity Facility offered assistance for municipalities in the short-term market. However, the terms were insufficient, leaving in place the need for long-term borrowing such as refinancing for savings and funding capital projects. We request consideration of lowering the rate, extending the term, allowing for taxable and tax-exempt bonds, and expanded eligible uses.
- **Funding Economic and Equitable Outcomes.** One of the most important ways the federal government should support municipalities is through stimulating local economies. We strongly support providing local governments additional flexible funding in the following areas, including a small amount for future-focused innovation funding: education support; public health management; resilient infrastructure needs; small business aid; direct assistance to individuals and families; food security; housing and homelessness assistance programs; and tourism and visitor industry aid. Federal funding in each of these areas will result in job growth, increased consumer spending, additional municipal revenues, and increased ability to provide residential services.

We believe designation of funds in this manner would be the most effective in helping cities across the country continue to respond to the pandemic.

We again thank you for your dedication to combatting this national crisis and for your attention to our concerns. Please let us know if we can provide additional information as you develop legislation and guidance on existing and additional relief and fiscal stimulus.

Sincerely,

Sanjay Bhakta
Chief Financial Officer
City of Albuquerque, NM

Emme Handy
Chief Financial Officer
City of Boston, MA

Jennie Huang Bennett
Chief Financial Officer
City of Chicago, IL

Ed Van Eenoo
Chief Financial Officer
City of Austin, TX

Kelly Flannery
Chief Financial Officer
City of Charlotte, NC

Joe Lombardi
Director of Finance
City of Columbus, OH

M. Elizabeth Reich
Chief Financial Officer
City of Dallas, TX

Brendan J. Hanlon
Chief Financial Officer
City of Denver, CO

Robert Cortinas
Chief Financial Officer
City of El Paso, TX

Reginald Zeno
Chief Financial Officer
City of Fort Worth, TX

Chris B. Brown
Controller
City of Houston, TX

Elizabeth Castillo
Chief Financial Officer
City of Jersey City, NJ

Gary Ameling
Chief Financial Officer
City of Las Vegas, NV

Richard H. Llewellyn, Jr.
City Administrative Officer
City of Los Angeles, CA

Daniel Frockt
Chief Financial Officer
Louisville, KY

Aycha Sawa
Comptroller
City of Milwaukee, WI

Dushani Dye
Chief Financial Officer
City of Minneapolis, MN

Kevin Crumbo
Director of Finance
Nashville, TN

Jacques Jiha
Budget Director
City of New York, NY

Margaret L. O'Brien
Interim Finance Director
City of Oakland, CA

Rob Dubow
Finance Director
City of Philadelphia, PA

Denise Olson
Chief Financial Officer
City of Phoenix, AZ

Michelle R. Kirby
Chief Financial Officer
City of Portland, OR

Dawn T. Holm
Director of Finance
City of Sacramento, CA

Ben Gorzell
Chief Financial Officer
City of San Antonio, TX

Ben Rosenfield
Controller
City of San Francisco, CA

Julia Harper Cooper
Director of Finance
City of San José, CA

Glen Lee
Finance Director
City of Seattle, WA

Joyce Garland
Chief Financial Officer
City of Tucson, AZ

Jeffrey S. DeWitt
Chief Financial Officer
Washington, D.C.



CITY OF WEED

550 Main Street
P. O. Box 470
Weed, CA 96094
(530) 938-5020
ci.weed.ca.us

February 4, 2021

The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative DeSaulnier:

America's economic crisis from the COVID-19 pandemic is not over. Most municipalities like the City of Weed, CA still have not received meaningful levels of federal aid. By separating, and ultimately dropping, state and local aid from the omnibus appropriations and emergency spending bill in December, Congress has injected significant uncertainty into the capability of local governments to carry out their operations, just as a third wave of COVID-19 infections threaten to spread uncontrollably.

National League of Cities' (NLC) latest revised estimate, based on the most recently available fiscal data and updated survey results, is that municipal governments are still facing a \$90 billion blow to their current year revenues.

Local leaders like myself have been working on the front lines of the emergency response. I've been managing resources to support the efforts of our first responders, coordinating regionally with other leaders across jurisdictional lines, enacting difficult and fiscally challenging emergency measures to slow the coronavirus epidemic, passing ordinances to limit the worst economic outcomes for residents and small businesses on the margins, and spending as necessary to protect public health and the economy in this extraordinary time.

At the same time, the still urgent, unmet need for federal aid has struck at the heart of local capacity to both carry out emergency response and participate in economic recovery. Loss of capacity is directly related to local government job losses.

We are a tourist driven community and COVID-19 has taken a direct impact upon our sales and TOT revenue. Our employees have been on furloughs since April of 2020 with a cut in pay of 10%. It is very stressful to maintain our level of services with the sharp decline in revenue.

Without additional aid and an appropriate, fair, and equitable allocation of this aid for all municipal and county governments, a preventable setback in household and economic stability services, and vaccination distribution, will be unavoidable.

For the next package, I ask that you adhere to the following principles for direct intervention and prevention of local government fiscal decline resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic:

- **Emergency funding should be fair and appropriate for each and every local government, with no minimum population threshold for eligibility.**
- **Aid should be directly allocated through familiar and proven government revenue sharing programs.**
- **Entanglement of state and local funding should be minimized.**

To be clear, communities like mine are not asking for a “bail-out” of local governments. Local governments do not expect the federal government to make up for every loss of local revenue. Rather, we are seeking an additional lifeline for local governments to put off and ultimately avoid options of last resort, including making temporary cuts permanent at a time when our communities need local services most, laying-off furloughed municipal and county employees who comprise a large share of America’s middle class, and indefinitely cancelling capital projects that will further impact local employment, business contracts and overall investment in the economy.

In other words, we are seeking federal assistance to save America’s cities and counties; and to make local leaders part of the solution to economic recovery.

Thank you for your swift action during this truly unique moment in American history. As partners working hand-in-hand both within our communities and also with the federal government and states, we are ready to continue to ensure that America emerges from this pandemic stronger than we were before.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tim Rundel', with a stylized, flowing script.

Tim Rundel
City Manager
City of Weed, CA

cc. Archana Sridhar, Senior Specialist Grassroots Advocacy, NLC, sridhar@nlc.org
League of California Cities, SupportLocalRecovery@cacities.org

Claudia Bill-de la Peña
Mayor

February 4, 2021

The Honorable Julia Brownley
United States House of Representatives
1019 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Via Email

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Via Email

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senate
Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Via Email

The Honorable Ro Khanna
The Honorable Katie Porter
The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
The Honorable Jimmy Gomez
California Delegation to House Oversight Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Via Email

RE: SUPPORT FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Honorable Congresswoman Brownley; Senators Feinstein and Padilla; and
Members of the House Oversight Committee:

On behalf of the City of Thousand Oaks, I urge you to include critical support for states and local governments in the final aid package. America's economic crisis from the COVID-19 pandemic is not over. Most municipalities like the City of Thousand Oaks still have not received meaningful levels of federal aid. By separating, and ultimately dropping, state and local aid from the omnibus appropriations and emergency spending bill in December, Congress has created significant uncertainty of local governments to carry out their operations, just as a third wave of COVID-19 infections threaten to spread uncontrollably.

National League of Cities' (NLC) latest revised estimate, based on the most recently available fiscal data and updated survey results, is that municipal governments are still facing a \$90 billion blow to their current year revenues.

Local elected leaders like myself have been working on the front lines of the emergency response. The Thousand Oaks City Council has been managing resources to support the efforts of our first responders, coordinating regionally with other leaders across jurisdictional lines, enacting difficult and fiscally challenging emergency measures to slow the coronavirus epidemic, passing ordinances to limit the worst economic outcomes for residents and small businesses on the margins, and spending as necessary to protect public health and the economy in this extraordinary time.

At the same time, the still urgent, unmet need for federal aid has struck at the heart of local capacity to both carry out emergency response and participate in economic recovery. Loss of capacity is directly related to local government job losses and service reductions.

Cities rely on local sales tax, including transit occupancy tax, fees and interest earnings to pay for their essential workforce and support services such as public safety, parks and recreation, water, wastewater, refuse disposal, recycling and infrastructure maintenance. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the local economy has severely decreased local generated revenue sources leaving cities scrambling to cover losses.

For the City of Thousand Oaks, our revenue is estimated to **decline by more than \$11 million** for the 2020-21 fiscal year. The pandemic has also had additional impact to our General Fund budget. The City has had to provide local pandemic response and relief efforts without any reimbursements from the state. In fact, State's share of CARES Act funding to the City was only \$1.5 million - far below than what the City spent in providing pandemic support. Thousand Oaks assisted with establishing local testing sites, coordinated business support programs, offered rental assistance programs, increased code enforcement and now are supporting local vaccine distribution.

To hedge revenue shortfalls and budget reductions, the Thousand Oaks City Council took drastic measures by postponing capital projects, approving furloughs and early retirement incentives to address current losses. Without additional aid and an appropriate, fair, and equitable allocation aid for all municipal and county governments, additional job losses will be unavoidable as well as service reductions that the community relies on are inevitable.

For the next package, I ask that you adhere to the following principles for direct intervention and prevention of local government fiscal decline resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic:



- **Emergency funding should be fair and appropriate for each and every local government, with no minimum population threshold for eligibility.**
- **Aid should be directly allocated through familiar and proven government revenue sharing programs.**
- **Entanglement of state and local funding should be minimized.**

To be clear, communities like mine are not asking for a “bailout” of local governments. Local governments do not expect the federal government to make up for every loss of local revenue. Rather, we are seeking an additional lifeline for local governments to put off and ultimately avoid options of last resort, including making temporary cuts permanent at a time when our communities need local services most, laying off furloughed municipal employees who comprise a large share of America’s middle class, and indefinitely cancelling capital projects that will further impact local employment, business contracts and overall investment in the economy.

We simply are seeking federal assistance to **save America’s cities and counties**; and to make local leaders part of the solution to economic recovery.

Thank you for your swift action during this truly unique moment in American history. As partners working hand-in-hand both within our communities and also with the federal government and states, we are ready to continue to ensure that America emerges from this pandemic stronger than we were before.

The City of Thousand Oaks is grateful for your continued support in assuring all cities have the resources they need to serve their communities during this crisis.

Sincerely,



Claudia Bill-de la Peña
Mayor

CC: National League of Cities- sridhar@nlc.org
James Crum, Van Scoyoc & Associates - jcrum@vasdc.com
cno:660-40/COVID-19 Relief Reconciliation Bill/ml





SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700
Los Angeles, CA 90017
T: (213) 236-1800
www.scag.ca.gov

REGIONAL COUNCIL OFFICERS

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Rex Richardson, Long Beach

First Vice President
Clint Lorimore, Eastvale

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Energy & Environment
David Pollock, Moorpark

Transportation
Cheryl Viegas-Walker, El Centro

February 8, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: Support for coronavirus relief funding to assist local governments regardless of population size

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), the nation's largest federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) representing six counties, 191 cities, and 19 million residents, I urge you to take swift action on a coronavirus aid package that includes direct, flexible funding for local governments of *all* sizes as called for in President Biden's "American Rescue Plan."

President Biden's proposed American Rescue Plan calls for \$350 billion in emergency funding for state and local governments of all sizes. This robust and direct stimulus is needed for cities and counties that are responding to the pandemic while at the same time leading the economic recovery. We urge you to include this critical aid in the next coronavirus relief package.

The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting recession has had devastating impacts on California. The state's unemployment rate peaked at a record high of 16.4 percent in April 2020 and steadily decreased. However, the unemployment rate grew to nine percent in December 2020, triggering the first month-to-month increase since the start of the pandemic.

Across the board, cities and counties in Southern California face a series of major stressors: the current public health crisis, high unemployment, severe municipal finance strains, and a social justice emergency as a result of longstanding racial inequities. In December 2020, SCAG released a [Regional Briefing Book](#) where forecasts show that the region's taxable sales could drop by an estimated \$33 billion for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and Fiscal Year 2021-2022, combined.

To date, states and local governments with populations over 500,000 have received direct federal financial assistance through the Coronavirus Relief Fund in the CARES Act (P.L. 116-136). More is needed, however, to cover the necessary expenditures incurred by local governments of all sizes during the pandemic. Funding is key to ensuring cities and counties are positioned to keep front line public workers on the job, while also effectively utilizing federal resources to distribute the vaccine, scale testing, reopen schools and maintain other vital services.

Thank you for your leadership during this unprecedented global pandemic. If you have any questions or require additional information on the impacts to the SCAG region, please contact Kevin Gilhooley, Legislation Manager at (213) 236-1878.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rex Richardson', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Rex Richardson
President

cc: Members of the Southern California Congressional Delegation
U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senator Alex Padilla



February 5, 2021

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senate
B03 Senate Russell Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Thompson
United States House of Representatives
268 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jared Huffman
United States House of Representatives
1527 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Feinstein, Senator Padilla, Congressman Thompson and Congressman Huffman:

On behalf of the residents of Santa Rosa, I want to thank you for your continued support and your work to ensure that our community has the resources we need to address the devastating impacts of COVID-19 and mitigate against community spread. I am writing today to express our support for President Biden's American Rescue Plan and highlight the COVID-19 relief priorities included in the City of Santa Rosa's 2021 Federal Platform, adopted by the City Council on February 2.

The platform, among other things, highlights the City's priorities for the next COVID relief package: including support for direct and flexible assistance to local governments to offset COVID-related revenue losses, expansion of paid family medical leave benefits, small business assistance, rental and water utility assistance to help vulnerable City residents facing evictions, homelessness, and paying off utility payments.

As you know, Santa Rosa's fire, police, water, wastewater services, and other essential workers have been working around the clock to protect our citizens and deliver essential services during the pandemic. While the City continues to provide these and other essential services, our revenues have decreased substantially due to shuttered businesses and record-high unemployment.

While the *Omnibus and COVID Relief and Response Act of 2020* (PL 116-260) bill does not provide direct assistance to local governments, it does include critical funding that will help our community recover, like rental and water utility assistance. The bill provided \$25 billion in rental assistance directly to States and to units of local governments with population at and above 200,000. The City's population, according to [Census 2019 Vintage data](#), is 176,753. The City supports and respectfully requests that Congress provide additional, direct rental assistance funding to units of local government that did not receive a direct allocation and/or reduce the population threshold to ensure that more communities receive direct rental assistance.

Office of the Mayor
City of Santa Rosa
100 Santa Rosa Avenue, room 10
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

In addition, the President's American Rescue plan also requests \$5 billion for homeless assistance and \$5 billion for energy and water utility assistance, which the City supports, and respectfully asks that Congress allocate that funding directly to communities, without regard to population size, to help the City's most vulnerable residents.

This funding, in conjunction with direct assistance to local governments, is critical to helping the City recover from the economic impacts of COVID-19. In the current fiscal year alone, COVID-19 expenditure impacts to our City already total over \$7 million and include costs for non-congregate sheltering for our most vulnerable unsheltered community members and the costs for equipment and PPE necessary to protect our frontline essential City workers. Additionally, the City is forecasting an \$18 million revenue shortfall for FY 2020-21. The revenue loss comes primarily from reductions in sales, hotel, and business license taxes with additional lost revenue due to a moratorium on certain City fees and citations. We are estimating \$56M of COVID-19 revenue losses from FY20 to FY25.

Your leadership has been critical to helping our residents and businesses throughout this unprecedented pandemic and economic crisis. We look forward to continuing to work with you, your colleagues and the new Administration to secure emergency COVID-19 fiscal assistance that will help our community recover from the devastating impacts of COVID-19.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Rogers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chris" and last name "Rogers" clearly legible.

CHRIS ROGERS
Mayor

c:
Santa Rosa City Council
Senator Mike McGuire
Assembly Member Jim Wood
Assembly Member Marc Levine
Senator Bill Dodd
Assembly Member Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
Nancy Hall Bennett - League of California Cities
Kyriakos Pagonis, MMO Partners
David Jones, Emanuels Jones & Associates



CITY OF RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA

22112 El Paseo • Rancho Santa Margarita • California 92688-2824
949.635.1800 • fax 949.635.1840 • www.cityofrsm.org

February 4, 2021

The Honorable Katie Porter
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Porter:

The City of Rancho Santa Margarita, like most municipalities, still have not received meaningful levels of federal aid to address the severe economic crisis resulting from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. By separating, and ultimately dropping, state and local aid from the omnibus appropriations and emergency spending bill in December, Congress has injected significant uncertainty into local governments' capability to carry out their operations as a third wave of COVID-19 infections loom.

National League of Cities' (NLC) latest revised estimate, based on the most recently available fiscal data and updated survey results, is that municipal governments are still facing a \$90 billion blow to their current year revenues.

Local elected leaders like myself have been working on the front lines of the emergency response. From managing resources to support first responders, coordinating regionally with leaders across jurisdictional lines, enacting emergency measures, passing ordinances to limit the worst economic outcomes for residents and small businesses, the City of Rancho Santa Margarita has spent as necessary to protect public health and the economy in this extraordinary time.

The urgent, unmet need for federal aid has struck at the heart of local capacity to conduct emergency response and participate in economic recovery. Loss of capacity is directly related to local government job losses. Without additional appropriate, fair, and equitable aid for all municipal and county governments, a preventable setback in household and economic stability services, and vaccination distribution, will be unavoidable.

For the next package, I ask that you adhere to the following principles for direct intervention and prevention of local government fiscal decline resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic:

- **Emergency funding should be fair and appropriate for each and every local government, with no minimum population threshold for eligibility.**
- **Aid should be directly allocated through familiar and proven government revenue sharing programs.**

Mayor
L. Anthony Beall

Mayor Pro Tempore
Anne D. Figueroa

Council Member
Carol A. Gamble

Council Member
Jerry Holloway

Council Member
Bradley J. McGirr

City Manager
Jennifer M. Cervantez

- **Entanglement of state and local funding should be minimized.**

To be clear, communities like mine are not asking for a "bail-out." Local governments do not expect the federal government to make up for every loss of local revenue. Instead, we seek an additional lifeline for local governments to put off and ultimately avoid last resort options, including making temporary cuts permanent at a time when our communities rely on local services more than ever. Indefinitely canceling capital projects and business contracts will further impact local jobs and the economy. Federal assistance is needed to save America's cities and counties and to make local leaders part of the solution to economic recovery.

We ask for your swift action during this unique moment in American history as we pursue economic recovery from COVID-19.

Sincerely,



L. Anthony Beall
Mayor
City of Rancho Santa Margarita

cc. Archana Sridhar, Senior Specialist Grassroots Advocacy, NLC, sridhar@nlc.org
Tony Cardenas, League Regional Public Affairs Manager (via email)
tcardenas@cacities.org
League of California Cities, SupportLocalRecovery@cacities.org

February 5, 2021



E-TRANSMITTAL/U.S. REGULAR MAIL

The Honorable Mark De Saulnier
U.S. House of Representatives (11th District)
503 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: COVID-19 FEDERAL ECONOMIC STIMULUS FOR CITIES

Dear Representative De Saulnier:

America's economic crisis from the COVID-19 pandemic is not over.

Most municipalities, like the City of San Pablo, still have not received meaningful levels of federal aid. By separating, and ultimately dropping, state and local aid from the federal omnibus appropriations and emergency spending bill in December 2020, the U.S. Congress has injected significant uncertainty into the capability of local governments to carry out their operations, just as a third wave of COVID-19 infections threaten to spread uncontrollably.

In the San Pablo community within the 11th District, some of the highest active cases (nearly 15,000 to date) of COVID-19 infections per capita exist in the East Bay region.

See attached link: <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/overview>

National League of Cities' (NLC) latest revised estimate, based on the most recently available fiscal data and updated survey results, is that municipal governments are still facing a \$90 billion blow to their current year revenues.

Local elected leaders like myself have been working on the front lines of the emergency response. I've been managing resources to support the efforts of our first responders, coordinating regionally with other leaders across jurisdictional lines, enacting difficult and fiscally challenging emergency measures to slow the coronavirus epidemic, passing ordinances to limit the worst economic outcomes for residents and small businesses on the margins, and spending as necessary to protect public health and the economy in this extraordinary time.

At the same time, the still urgent, unmet need for federal aid has struck at the heart of local capacity to both carry out emergency response and participate in economic recovery. Loss of capacity is directly related to local government job losses.

In FY 2020/21, the City of San Pablo adopted a \$41.1M GF Budget with a (20%) revenue loss related to COVID-19 fiscal impacts which required the City to use \$5M in Catastrophic Reserves, 10% cuts in services/supplies, and seek labor concessions from employee labor groups to balance its budget this year. The one-time use of the City's reserves must be replenished within 3 years per the City's adopted fiscal policies.

Unfortunately, this unforeseen pandemic and unfortunate fiscal scenario cannot bear repeating for our City. Additionally, the City's financial condition will be exacerbated for years to come unless ample federal COVID-19 funding is provided to shore up the City's revenue loss and pay off these reserve obligations to sustain critical City services (i.e. First Responders, Police, Fire) in a community with significant underinsured or non-insured population, with limited or no access to medical care during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.

Without additional federal aid and an appropriate, fair, and equitable allocation of this aid for all municipal and county governments, a preventable setback in household and economic stability services, and vaccination distribution, will be unavoidable.

For the next package, I ask that you adhere to the following principles for direct intervention and prevention of local government fiscal decline resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic:

- **Emergency funding should be fair and appropriate for each and every local government, with no minimum population threshold for eligibility.**
- **Aid should be directly allocated through familiar and proven government revenue sharing programs.**
- **Entanglement of state and local funding should be minimized.**

To be clear, communities like mine are not asking for a "bail-out" of local governments. Local governments do not expect the federal government to make up for every loss of local revenue. Rather, we are seeking an additional lifeline for local governments to put off and ultimately avoid options of last resort, including making temporary cuts permanent at a time when our communities need local services most, laying-off furloughed municipal and county employees who comprise a large share of America's middle class, and indefinitely cancelling capital projects that will further impact local employment, business contracts and overall investment in the economy.

In other words, we are seeking federal assistance to save America's cities and counties; and to make local leaders part of the solution to economic recovery.

As partners working hand-in-hand both within our communities and also with the federal government and states, we are ready to continue to ensure that America emerges from this pandemic stronger than we were before.

The Honorable Mark De Saulnier
U.S. House of Representatives (11th District)
Page 3

Thank you in advance for your swift action during this truly unique moment in American history.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Elizabeth Pabon-Alvarado". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Elizabeth" being more prominent than the last name.

Elizabeth Pabon-Alvarado, Mayor
City of San Pablo

cc. Archana Sridhar, Senior Specialist Grassroots Advocacy, NLC, sridhar@nlc.org
Sam Caygill, East Bay Division, League of California Cities, scaygill@cacities.org
League of California Cities, SupportLocalRecovery@cacities.org



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

TODD GLORIA

MAYOR

February 4, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
Washington, D.C 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
Washington, D.C 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
Washington, D.C 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
Washington, D.C 20515

Dear Senator Schumer, Senator McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Leader McCarthy:

As the Mayor of America's eighth largest city, I am writing to you today to outline some of our City's core priorities for the next COVID-19 relief package. The Biden administration's *American Rescue Plan* is strong proposal for Congress to consider for providing our cities the support necessary to contain the virus, help us speed up vaccine dissemination, aid small businesses in their recovery, and provide our communities with flexible fiscal relief. As you deliberate over the details of this relief package, I urge you to take swift action to ensure our communities get the much-needed assistance we need.

Our City's top priority, as outlined in the President's proposal, is the inclusion of at least \$350 billion in direct, flexible funding for local governments. Currently, the City of San Diego, due to pandemic related economic impacts, is projecting to lose over \$280 million in City general fund revenue, due to lost sales and hotel taxes, through the end of fiscal year 2021. This represents over 15 percent of the City's annual general fund budget and is roughly the size of the City's Fire Department's budget. The City's upcoming budget is now facing a \$154 million-dollar budget deficit for fiscal year 2022 and additional triple-digit deficit margins in fiscal year 2023 and fiscal year 2024. This relief is essential to provide our local governments the resources necessary to maintain neighborhood services, preserve critical public safety and public workforce jobs, and allow us to make community investments needed to build our cities back better in the wake of the pandemic. In addition to appropriating this direct relief, Congress must ensure a few key provisions relating to this including:

- Providing an equitable split of funds between states and cities to ensure our local governments get their fair share of funding.

- Ensuring the funding appropriated is flexible for what it can be used for, including being allowed for revenue replacement
- Using a formula like the one used in last year's *H.R. 6800 The HEROES Act*
- Allowing our cities ample time to spend these funds to ensure we can utilize these funds efficiently and provide the flexibility to react to ever changing fiscal environments.

In addition, to direct fiscal relief this package must be comprehensive in nature and include provisions to address the many dimensions of how this pandemic has impacted our communities. I urge you to include the following priorities in a final relief package:

- **Funding for Vaccine Dissemination:** Congress should appropriate at least an additional \$20 billion dollars to help with vaccine dissemination to help our communities vaccinate everyone including our undocumented populations and make cities eligible to receive this funding.
- **Allow Cities to be Direct Vaccine Recipients:** This legislation should include language to allow cities to be direct vaccine recipients so we can help speed up our vaccination efforts.
- **Funding for Testing, Tracing, and Surveillance:** Congress should appropriate at least \$50 billion dollars in a massive expansion of testing, providing funds for the purchase of rapid tests, investments to expand lab capacity, and support to help cities implement regular testing protocols.
- **Extend the Federal Eviction Moratorium:** To prevent the spread of COVID-19 and help keep millions of renters stably housed, Congress should extend and improve the federal eviction moratorium issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Congress should extend the moratorium throughout the duration of the federal public health emergency.
- **Expanded Housing Voucher Funding:** Congress should appropriate at least \$28 billion dollars to fund 500,000 new Housing Choice Vouchers, to assure housing stability, which will help curtail homelessness and lead to universal housing assistance.
- **Move Housing Vouchers from Discretionary to Mandatory Funding:** Congress should make housing vouchers universal and move this from discretionary funding to mandatory funding program for all eligible households.
- **Additional Emergency Rental and Utility Assistance:** Congress should appropriate at least an additional \$30 billion dollars to the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) to help provide additional rental, utility, and legal assistance to renters and landlords. This funding should be flexible and be allowed to help with a larger array of utilities including broadband. In addition, the dissemination of appropriated funding should be expedited and have an application process that is efficient and not cumbersome.
- **Funding for Emergency Solutions Grants:** Congress should appropriate at least \$8 billion dollars in Emergency Solutions Grants to help prevent and respond to outbreaks among people experiencing homelessness.
- **Small Business Relief Funding:** Congress should appropriate at least an additional \$15 billion dollars in flexible grants to help our small businesses recover. Any small business assistance should prioritize smaller, minority-owned businesses and utilize community

bank. Dissemination of appropriated funding should be expediated and have an application process that is efficient and not cumbersome.

Your quick action on additional COVID-19 relief is a crucial step to making meaningful progress in one of the most challenging moments in our country's history. My administration is eager to work with you to make this relief package a reality.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd Gloria". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Todd" and last name "Gloria" clearly distinguishable.

Todd Gloria
Mayor
City of San Diego



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

TODD GLORIA

MAYOR

February 5th, 2021

Oversight and Reform Committee
United States House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C 20515

Re: Usage of Coronavirus Relief Funds

Dear Chairwoman Maloney:

The City of San Diego (City) has fully expended or obligated the \$248 million received via the CARES ACT-Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF). Since March 2020, CRF funds have aided the City in meeting the evolving challenges presented by the pandemic by responding to and mitigating the effects of COVID-19. Importantly, CRF aided the City in continuing to deliver core municipal services while under stay-at-home orders, purchase critical personal protective equipment, provide shelter and critical services to thousands of individuals within a highly vulnerable homeless population. Further, the City used CRF to deploy assistance to the COVID-19-impacted community through programs including small business relief grants, rental assistance, childcare vouchers for impacted families, and technical assistance to small, economically disadvantaged businesses.

The following includes information and outcomes for a few the key CRF-funded community programs:

- Outcomes for Emergency Rental Assistance (\$9.7M) in FY2020 and FY2021 include 3,673 Households Served.
- Outcomes for Emergency Childcare Voucher Program (\$5M) in FY2020 and FY2021 include 1,752 Families Served; 2,742 Children Served; and 1,118 Businesses Served.
- Outcomes for Small Business Relief Fund (\$12.1M) in FY2020 and FY2021 include 1,857 businesses, impacting 7,180 jobs and 51% of the funds were distributed to businesses located in Low-to-moderate income areas, Opportunity Zones, Promise Zone, and Hardest Hit Zip Codes based on unemployment rates.

- Outcomes for Small Business Relief for small and disadvantaged businesses. (\$500K) 244 grants awarded to small and disadvantaged businesses in the City of San Diego. See this link for an example of one illustrative success story: <https://youtu.be/urPXr0QaRMo>
- Outcomes for Outreach and Technical Assistance (\$200K) support for small, economically disadvantaged, and at-risk businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic through specialized outreach and technical assistance to help these small businesses obtain local grants, identify and apply for other financial resources or available benefits through local, state, or federal agencies, comply with funding requirements, and improve financial resilience. 6,860 clients served, of which: 556 Black Owned, 561 Asian Pacific Islander Owned, 1,651 Latino Owned and 3,035 Woman Owned.

CRF monies were essential in helping the City and its partners provide assistance to its most vulnerable residents through **Operation Shelter to Home** (\$27M). Operation Shelter to Home launched on April 1st by moving individuals already in shelters into the San Diego Convention Center to allow for proper physical distancing to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Because the effects of the pandemic were creating staffing challenges at the City's various shelters, the program centralized staff in one place to ensure personnel could be efficient even with limited numbers. The operation enabled the City and its partners to provide shelter, hygiene, nutrition, medical, counseling, frequent COVID-19 testing, and currently, vaccines to eligible groups based on State and County guidelines. One of the core missions of Operation Shelter to Home is to find permanent housing for individuals. So far, the agencies have housed more than 1,186 individuals and 43 families during the pandemic with more than 200 others in the process of finding a permanent or longer-term housing solution.

The following includes a few of the key essential CRF expenditures for City personnel, services, and equipment:

- \$8.3M in critical IT infrastructure and equipment to allow City services to be delivered remotely and with minimal interruption to residents;
- \$3.2M in necessary personal protective equipment for on-the-line City employees;
- \$7.1M in personnel expenses for City staff who were wholly or substantially redeployed to respond to and mitigate the spread of COVID-19;
- \$135M in first responder personnel eligible expenses necessary to respond to and mitigate the spread of COVID-19

Going forward, the COVID-19 pandemic is anticipated to continue to significantly impact the City of San Diego economy and revenue. The City is projected to lose over \$280 million in City general fund revenue, due to lost sales and hotel taxes, through the end of fiscal year 2021. This lost revenue represents over 15 percent of the City's annual general fund budget and is roughly the size of the City's Fire Department's budget. In addition to the significant losses in the current fiscal year, the City is projecting a \$154 million budget deficit for fiscal year 2022 with

additional triple-digit deficit margins in fiscal year 2023 and fiscal year 2024. This relief is essential to provide our local governments the resources necessary to maintain neighborhood services, preserve critical public safety and public workforce jobs, and allow us to make community investments needed to build our cities back better in the wake of the pandemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd Gloria". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Todd" and last name "Gloria" clearly distinguishable.

Todd Gloria
Mayor
City of San Diego, California

CC:

Sen. Dianne Feinstein
Sen. Alex Padilla
Rep. Scott Peters
Rep. Mike Levin
Rep. Sara Jacobs
Rep. Juan Vargas



City of
San Bernardino

Office of the Mayor | John Valdivia

February 4, 2021

The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative DeSaulnier:

America's economic crisis from the COVID-19 pandemic is not over. Most municipalities like the City of San Bernardino still have not received meaningful levels of federal aid. By separating, and ultimately dropping, state and local aid from the omnibus appropriations and emergency spending bill in December, Congress has injected significant uncertainty into the capability of local governments to carry out their operations, just as a third wave of COVID-19 infections threaten to spread uncontrollably.

National League of Cities' (NLC) latest revised estimate, based on the most recently available fiscal data and updated survey results, is that municipal governments are still facing a \$90 billion blow to their current year revenues.

Local elected leaders like myself have been working on the front lines of the emergency response. I've been managing resources to support the efforts of our first responders, coordinating regionally with other leaders across jurisdictional lines, enacting difficult and fiscally challenging emergency measures to slow the coronavirus epidemic, passing ordinances to limit the worst economic outcomes for residents and small businesses on the margins, and spending as necessary to protect public health and the economy in this extraordinary time.

At the same time, the still urgent, unmet need for federal aid has struck at the heart of local capacity to both carry out emergency response and participate in economic recovery. Loss of capacity is directly related to local government job losses. Without additional aid and an appropriate, fair, and equitable allocation of this aid for all municipal and county governments, a preventable setback in household and economic stability services, and vaccination distribution, will be unavoidable.

For the next package, I ask that you adhere to the following principles for direct intervention and prevention of local government fiscal decline resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic:

- **Emergency funding should be fair and appropriate for each and every local government, with no minimum population threshold for eligibility.**
- **Aid should be directly allocated through familiar and proven government revenue sharing programs.**
- **Entanglement of state and local funding should be minimized.**

To be clear, communities like mine are not asking for a “bail-out” of local governments. Local governments do not expect the federal government to make up for every loss of local revenue. Rather, we are seeking an additional lifeline for local governments to put off and ultimately avoid options of last resort, including making temporary cuts permanent at a time when our communities need local services most, laying-off furloughed municipal and county employees who comprise a large share of America’s middle class, and indefinitely cancelling capital projects that will further impact local employment, business contracts and overall investment in the economy.

In other words, we are seeking federal assistance to save America’s cities and counties; and to make local leaders part of the solution to economic recovery.

Thank you for your swift action during this truly unique moment in American history. As partners working hand-in-hand both within our communities and also with the federal government and states, we are ready to continue to ensure that America emerges from this pandemic stronger than we were before.

Sincerely,



John Valdivia
Mayor
City of San Bernardino

cc. Archana Sridhar, Senior Specialist Grassroots Advocacy, NLC, sridhar@nlc.org
Your League Regional Public Affairs Manager, lmorales@cacities.org
League of California Cities, SupportLocalRecovery@cacities.org



February 5, 2021

The Honorable Congressman DeSalinier
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative DeSalinier:

America's economic crisis from the COVID-19 pandemic is not over. Most municipalities like the City of Orinda still have not received meaningful levels of federal aid. By separating, and ultimately dropping, state and local aid from the omnibus appropriations and emergency spending bill in December, Congress has injected significant uncertainty into the capability of local governments to carry out their operations, just as a third wave of COVID-19 infections threaten to spread uncontrollably.

National League of Cities' (NLC) latest revised estimate, based on the most recently available fiscal data and updated survey results, is that municipal governments are still facing a \$90 billion blow to their current year revenues.

Local elected leaders like myself have been working on the front lines of the emergency response. I've been managing resources to support the efforts of our first responders, coordinating regionally with other leaders across jurisdictional lines, enacting difficult and fiscally challenging emergency measures to slow the coronavirus epidemic, passing ordinances to limit the worst economic outcomes for residents and small businesses on the margins, and spending as necessary to protect public health and the economy in this extraordinary time.

At the same time, the still urgent, unmet need for federal aid has struck at the heart of local capacity to both carry out emergency response and participate in economic recovery. Loss of capacity is directly related to local government job losses.

Without additional aid and an appropriate, fair, and equitable allocation of this aid for all municipal and county governments, a preventable setback in household and economic stability services, and vaccination distribution, will be unavoidable.

For the next package, I ask that you adhere to the following principles for direct intervention and prevention of local government fiscal decline resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic:

- **Emergency funding should be fair and appropriate for each and every local government, with no minimum population threshold for eligibility.**
- **Aid should be directly allocated through familiar and proven government revenue sharing programs.**

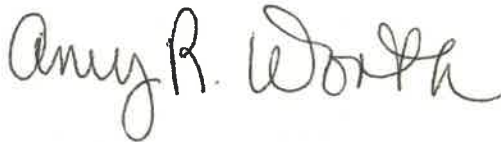
- **Entanglement of state and local funding should be minimized.**

To be clear, communities like mine are not asking for a “bail-out” of local governments. Local governments do not expect the federal government to make up for every loss of local revenue. Rather, we are seeking an additional lifeline for local governments to put off and ultimately avoid options of last resort, including making temporary cuts permanent at a time when our communities need local services most, laying-off furloughed municipal and county employees who comprise a large share of America’s middle class, and indefinitely cancelling capital projects that will further impact local employment, business contracts and overall investment in the economy.

In other words, we are seeking federal assistance to save America’s cities and counties; and to make local leaders part of the solution to economic recovery.

Thank you for your swift action during this truly unique moment in American history. As partners working hand-in-hand both within our communities and also with the federal government and states, we are ready to continue to ensure that America emerges from this pandemic stronger than we were before.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Amy R. Worth". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amy" and last name "Worth" clearly legible, and "R." as a middle initial.

Amy Worth
Mayor
City of Orinda

cc. Archana Sridhar, Senior Specialist Grassroots Advocacy, NLC, sridhar@nlc.org
Sam Caygill, East Bay Division, League of California Cities, scaygill@cacities.org
League of California Cities, SupportLocalRecovery@cacities.org



February 5, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Leader McCarthy:

We write today as the duly elected officials of the fifth-most populous County in the United States representing more than 3.3 million people to advocate for the passage of additional funding for state and local governments as well as vaccine funding in the next COVID-19 relief bill.

We have been working at the county and municipal levels as partners to rebuild the economy and streamline vaccine rollouts. Despite experiencing historic budget shortfalls, we continue to manage mounting costs and increasing demands to protect our residents. Previous federal legislation responding to COVID-19 provided important support, yet none allowed for the replacement of billions of lost revenues due to COVID-19.

Amid caring for coronavirus patients, the County has begun vaccinating residents age 65 and older. However, our County is quickly going through our vaccine supply. To successfully reach our goal of at least 30,000 vaccinations a day and accommodate for our new vaccine "super sites," our County desperately needs increased quantities of the vaccine. We will not overcome this virus without a vigorous vaccine program, which requires increased funding.

As Congress prepares its priorities for the early months of 2021, leaders in Congress and the Executive Branch have made it clear COVID-19 recovery is the foremost priority. The most impactful measure Congress can take to stabilize our COVID-19 situation and encourage economic revival is to provide aid to local governments. We are urging Congress to:

- Provide direct aid to local governments equally divided between cities and counties. Please do not place states in a position of intermediary in this aid.
- Provide maximum flexibility. Financial struggles of local governments in their COVID-19 responses vary in scope. Congress should ensure the direct aid can cover the widest set of eligible activities, including forgone revenue.

- Provide a robust amount of aid. Congress should appropriate additional funds on the order of magnitude larger than the \$150 billion provided in the Coronavirus Relief Fund in March.
- Establish no minimum population. In prior COVID relief legislation, Congress provided direct aid to communities with a minimum population of 500,000 and 200,000. We urge Congress to make the funding available without a statutory minimum population.

As proposed, President Biden's COVID relief package addresses a number of our concerns as it relates to state and local government aid: (1) it provides \$350 billion in emergency aid to state and local governments; (2) it allocates \$20 billion towards a national vaccination program; and (3) it provides \$130 billion to help our K-12 schools reopen. This package would keep public workers employed, increase vaccine distribution, expand virus testing, and reopen schools. President Biden recognizes the urgency of this moment and the need to support counties across the U.S.

We are also encouraged by the President's recognition of the need for the federal government to reimburse local governments for coronavirus-related expenses, as indicated by his recent executive action to increase the Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance cost share to 100 percent. If the federal government expands staffing for vaccines, the County and all its contained cities stand ready to offer our support of increased staff – as long as the federal government will reimburse the cost.

Local governments have been on the front lines of this crisis. We implore you to prioritize the passage of additional funding for state and local governments and vaccine programs. We look forward to continuing to work with you to address our concerns while advancing the passage of the next COVID-relief package.

Sincerely,

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

First District Supervisor Andrew Do
Chairman

Fourth District Supervisor Doug Chaffee
Vice Chairman

Third District Supervisor Donald P.
Wagner

Fifth District Supervisor Lisa Bartlett

ORANGE COUNTY MAYORS:

Aliso Viejo Mayor Tiffany Ackley

Laguna Woods Mayor Shari L. Horne

Anaheim Mayor Harry Sidhu

Lake Forest Mayor Scott Voigts

Brea Mayor Steve Vargas

Los Alamitos Mayor Mark A. Chirco

Buena Park Mayor Connor Traut

Mission Viejo Mayor Trish Kelley

Costa Mesa Mayor Katrina Foley

Newport Beach Mayor Brad Avery

Cypress Mayor Jon Peat

Dana Point Mayor Joe Muller

Fountain Valley Mayor Michael Vo

Fullerton Mayor Bruce Whitaker

Garden Grove Mayor Steven R. Jones

Huntington Beach Mayor Kim Carr

Irvine Mayor Farrah Khan

La Habra Mayor Rose Espinoza

La Palma Mayor Nitesh P. Patel

Laguna Beach Mayor Bob Whalen

Laguna Hills Mayor Erica Pezold

Laguna Niguel Mayor Fred Minagar

Orange Mayor Mark A. Murphy

Placentia Mayor Craig S. Green

Rancho Santa Margarita Mayor L. Anthony Beall

San Clemente Mayor Kathleen Ward

San Juan Capistrano Mayor John Taylor

Santa Ana Mayor Vicente Sarmiento

Seal Beach Mayor Joe Kalmick

Stanton Mayor David J. Shawver

Tustin Mayor Letitia Clark

Villa Park Mayor Crystal Miles

Westminster Mayor Tri Ta

Yorba Linda Mayor Peggy Huang



CITY OF OCEANSIDE

MAYOR ESTHER C. SANCHEZ
DEPUTY MAYOR RYAN KEIM
COUNCILMEMBERS
KORI JENSEN
CHRISTOPHER RODRIGUEZ
PETER WEISS

Oceanside COVID-19 Impacts

Background: As of January 30, 2021, 10,724 Oceanside residents have tested positive for COVID-19, approximately 6% of our total population. Of those, approximately 426 have been hospitalized with 58 admitted to the ICU, and 110 residents have lost their lives.

Among city staff, we have had 121 positive cases as of February 2, 2021, almost 11% of our workforce. Five employees have been hospitalized to date, including two currently hospitalized. As of 1/9/21, 356 employees have used 23,591 hours of paid emergency leave for quarantine, isolation or childcare issues, which represents lost productivity equivalent to 11.34 full time employees over one year (FTE). Additional City employees have been re-directed from their typical duties to provide COVID-19 services to the community, and the City instituted a hiring freeze in order to address budget shortfalls. As a result, approximately 16.5% of the City's positions are currently vacant, which impairs the City's ability to effectively serve our residents and puts additional stress on current employees.

Oceanside's hospitality sector has experienced the biggest economic impacts from COVID-19, including restaurants and hotels, along with personal services businesses such as gyms, hair salons, exercise studios, barbershops, nail salons and the like.

City Revenue Impacts: Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT). TOT is the tax paid by persons who stay at lodging facilities (hotels, motels and short-term rentals) for less than 30 days. TOT revenue helps pay for public safety, lifeguards and beach cleaning, and general maintenance of facilities used by these visitors. Before the pandemic hit, we expected \$8.34M in TOT for FY 19/20, and \$8.9M for FY 20/21. Actual revenues for FY 19/20 were \$7.4M and our revised projection for FY 20/21 is \$5.9M. Our 5-year total projection for FY 20/21 through FY 24/25 was \$56.21M, we are now projecting \$39.34M for this time period, **a reduction of \$16.87M.**

The City has also seen revenue impacts in other areas including parking, lease revenue, business licenses, and permits.

Total revenues. Our 5-year total projection for FY 20/21 through FY 24/25 was \$886M, we are now projecting \$866M for this time period, **a reduction of \$20M.**

City Expenses: Oceanside has used local funds to provide direct assistance to our community. This includes the following:

- \$876,746 from the City's infrastructure reserves to fund and operate food programs to assist needy residents. Staff has prepared FEMA reimbursement claims for these programs but until those funds are received, a process which usually takes multiple years, these funds are not available for their intended purpose of repairing the City's deteriorating infrastructure.
- \$750,000 from the City's reserves to fund a business *grant* program to assist local businesses mandated by government action or decree to close or significantly alter their business activity due to COVID-19.
- \$450,000 from the City's reserves to fund business *loan* program to assist local businesses mandated by government action or decree to close or significantly alter their business activity due to COVID-19. This program provides very low interest loans with payments deferred until January 2022.

In addition, the City continues to accrue costs to comply with the COVID-19 Health Orders such as enhanced cleaning and sanitizing of public spaces, temporary staff to serve as the City's Designated Infection Control Officer (DICO) to screen and monitor employees for COVID-19 illness, ongoing public information to advise residents of Health Order requirements and provide factual information about COVID-19 including testing and vaccination resources, qualified City staff who are assisting with the County vaccination program including visiting long term care facilities in the City, and responding to COVID-19 related calls for service. Costs incurred prior to October 31, 2020 were reimbursed from CARES Act allocations that the City received from the County and State governments, however these costs have continued and the City has approximately \$1.3M in additional unreimbursed expenses as of 2/1/2021.

In summary, the City of Oceanside has **at least \$2.93M in unreimbursed expenses** that are eligible for Federal funding under the prior CARES Act guidance, and the City continues to incur additional eligible expenses.

Contacts:

Charmayne Anderson, The Ferguson Group, (202) 261-6016, canderson@tfgnet.com
Deanna Lorson, City Manager, (760) 435-3055, dlorson@oceansideca.org



February 4, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, and Leader McCarthy,

On behalf of the League of California Cities and the 477 cities we represent, we urge you to take swift and urgent action on comprehensive coronavirus relief legislation that includes direct, flexible funding for all cities as called for in President Biden's American Rescue Plan.

Our country's economic crisis from the pandemic is not over, and our cities are still waiting to receive meaningful levels of federal aid. By separating, and ultimately dropping, state and local aid from the omnibus appropriations and emergency spending bill in December, Congress has injected significant uncertainty into the capability of local governments to carry out their operations, just as a third wave of COVID-19 infections threaten to spread uncontrollably.

Based on the most recently available fiscal data and updated survey results from the National League of Cities, municipal governments nationwide are still facing a \$90 billion blow to their current year revenues.

For nearly a year, California cities have been on the front lines taking action to protect their residents and maintain the delivery of essential city services, despite the substantial unplanned expenses and revenue shortfalls caused by the pandemic. Cities are managing resources to support the efforts of first responders, coordinating regionally with other leaders across jurisdictional lines, enacting difficult and fiscally challenging emergency measures to slow the coronavirus epidemic, passing ordinances to limit the worst economic outcomes for residents and small businesses on the margins, and spending as necessary to protect public health and the economy in this extraordinary time.

At the same time, the still urgent, unmet need for federal aid has struck at the heart of local capacity to both carry out emergency response and participate in economic recovery. Without support, cities have been forced to cut budgets, services, and jobs. Sadly, across the state, more than 165,000 local government jobs have already been lost during the pandemic.

Without additional emergency funding and an **appropriate, fair, and equitable allocation of this aid for all cities**, counties, and states, a preventable setback to response, recovery, and vaccination distribution, will be unavoidable.

For the next package, we respectfully ask that you adhere to the following principles to reverse the fiscal shortfalls resulting from the pandemic:

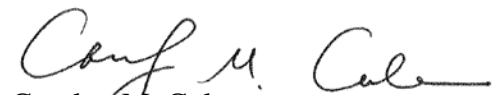
- **Emergency funding should be fair and appropriate for each and every local government, with no minimum population threshold for eligibility.**
- **Aid should be directly allocated through familiar and proven government revenue sharing programs.**
- **Entanglement of state and local funding should be minimized.**

To be clear, our cities are not asking for a “bail-out” of local governments. Rather, we are seeking an emergency lifeline so local governments can delay and ultimately avoid making temporary cuts permanent at a time when our communities need local services most, laying-off furloughed city and county employees who comprise a large share of America’s middle class, and indefinitely cancelling capital projects that will further impact economic recovery.

Ultimately, we are seeking emergency federal assistance that will ensure local leaders are part of the solution to our country’s economic recovery.

Thank you for your swift action during this truly unique moment in American history. Cities have been and will continue working hand-in-hand both within our communities and with the state and federal governments to ensure that America emerges from this pandemic stronger than we were before.

Sincerely,



Carolyn M. Coleman
Executive Director and CEO
League of California Cities

Cc: Members of the California Congressional Delegation

CITY OF HAWTHORNE



4455 West 126th Street · Hawthorne, California 90250-4482

February 5, 2021

The Honorable Maxine Waters
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Waters:

America's economic crisis from the COVID-19 pandemic is not over. Most municipalities like the City of Hawthorne still have not received meaningful levels of federal aid. By separating, and ultimately dropping, state and local aid from the omnibus appropriations and emergency spending bill in December, Congress has injected significant uncertainty into the capability of local governments to carry out their operations, just as a third wave of COVID-19 infections threaten to spread uncontrollably.

National League of Cities' (NLC) latest revised estimate, based on the most recently available fiscal data and updated survey results, is that municipal governments are still facing a \$90 billion blow to their current year revenues.

Local elected leaders like myself have been working on the front lines of the emergency response. I've been managing resources to support the efforts of our first responders, coordinating regionally with other leaders across jurisdictional lines, enacting difficult and fiscally challenging emergency measures to slow the coronavirus epidemic, passing ordinances to limit the worst economic outcomes for residents and small businesses on the margins, and spending as necessary to protect public health and the economy in this extraordinary time.

At the same time, the still urgent, unmet need for federal aid has struck at the heart of local capacity to both carry out emergency response and participate in economic recovery. Loss of capacity is directly related to local government job losses.

Without additional aid and an appropriate, fair, and equitable allocation of this aid for all municipal and county governments, a preventable setback in household and economic stability services, and vaccination distribution, will be unavoidable.

For the next package, I ask that you adhere to the following principles for direct intervention and prevention of local government fiscal decline resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Emergency funding should be fair and appropriate for each and every local government, with no minimum population threshold for eligibility.

- Aid should be directly allocated through familiar and proven government revenue sharing programs.
- Entanglement of state and local funding should be minimized.

To be clear, communities like mine are not asking for a “bail-out” of local governments. Local governments do not expect the federal government to make up for every loss of local revenue. Rather, we are seeking an additional lifeline for local governments to put off and ultimately avoid options of last resort, including making temporary cuts permanent at a time when our communities need local services most, laying-off furloughed municipal and county employees who comprise a large share of America’s middle class, and indefinitely cancelling capital projects that will further impact local employment, business contracts and overall investment in the economy.

In other words, we are seeking federal assistance to save America’s cities and counties; and to make local leaders part of the solution to economic recovery.

Thank you for your swift action during this truly unique moment in American history. As partners working hand-in-hand both within our communities and also with the federal government and states, we are ready to continue to ensure that America emerges from this pandemic stronger than we were before.

Sincerely,



Alex Vargas
Mayor
City of Hawthorne
310.349.2910

cc. Archana Sridhar, Senior Specialist Grassroots Advocacy, NLC, sridhar@nlc.org
Jeff Kiernan, Regional Public Affairs Manager, Cal Cities, jkiernan@cacities.org
League of California Cities, SupportLocalRecovery@cacities.org



JERRY P. DYER
MAYOR

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
Chairwoman
House Committee on Oversight and Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable James Comer
Ranking Member
House Committee on Oversight and Reform
2105 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20505

February 5, 2021

Dear Chairwoman Maloney and Ranking Member Comer,

Our most daunting local and national challenge is the ongoing coronavirus emergency response. I understand that the House Committee on Oversight and Reform will oversee budget reconciliation instructions related to \$350 billion worth of additional assistance for state and local governments as included in President Joseph Biden's recently introduced American Rescue Plan. As Mayor of the City of Fresno, California, I support these provisions and I cannot understate the importance of this sorely needed relief for state and local government partners. I am writing to ask the Committee to provide these resources directly to cities and to allow us to use any forthcoming dollars to cover our local revenue losses, thereby enabling our local government to maintain essential workers and services.

Last year, the Fresno received a \$92 million allocation from the Coronavirus Relief Fund established by the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act*. This CARES Act relief enabled our local government to address the needs of our residents, businesses, and community partners. The City, however, has depleted those initial dollars on public health and safety expenses. We need additional federal resources to support both our ongoing local response to the pandemic and the accompanying economic fallout. Here in California's central San Joaquin Valley, coronavirus cases, hospitalizations, and deaths rose to record levels during the latest surge. More than 90,000 Fresno County residents have contracted the disease and, sadly, more than 1,100 of our neighbors have died. For weeks, intensive care beds have been near capacity as our region grapples with the disease's rapid spread through our community.

As you work to draft this critical component for coronavirus relief, I ask that your instructions allow for direct allocations with new spending flexibility for cities of all sizes. Fresno is contending with severe fiscal pressure, through no fault of our own, while leading the front-line response. In fact, the City entered the coronavirus emergency with the only fully funded public pension system in California. Now, we are contending with an \$11.7 million shortfall during the current fiscal year and another \$28.4 million in the coming one. The pandemic is fully responsible for these budget shortfalls, and it will devastate essential jobs and services if not

addressed. Without federal aid, the budget shortfall could result in a more than 12 percent reduction in our municipal workforce – or well in excess of a hundred positions.

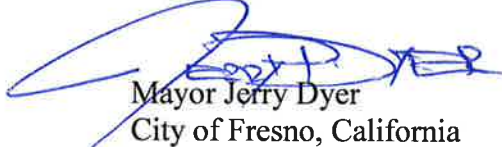
Our first responders have confronted the past year's challenges with bravery and sacrifice, and these essential workers deserve to focus on their daily work and responsibilities without the specter of a potential job loss looming on the horizon. Absent relief, Fresno would implement staff and service reductions across every department, including police and fire. The public sector nationally has already lost close to a million jobs over the past year. Simply put, this is not a fair outcome for hard-working employees who have worked tirelessly to protect the public. The United States cannot afford more avoidable job losses, which will lead to long-term unemployment.

Additionally, a lack of vaccine supply and insufficient distribution funding is hindering our ability to vaccinate our local population. Two community-based sites in Fresno were recently forced to pause vaccinations for health care workers and senior citizens, adding an additional layer of urgency to an already difficult situation. I ask that State and local funding included in the American Rescue Plan may be used flexibly for vaccine distribution and other vaccination activities. In Fresno, we hope to administer 900,000 doses in the next four months to vaccinate 450,000 people – enough to meet the herd immunity standard of a 75 percent vaccination rate for 600,000 individuals, which is the approximate population of Fresno and its immediate vicinity.

This pandemic has dramatically altered the financial reality of state and local governments across the country – including here in Fresno. I support the swift passage of commonsense legislation that will provide sufficient aid for the local governments managing this crisis on the ground so that we can maintain personnel and services during this difficult time. After nearly a year managing the crisis, cities cannot afford continued uncertainty or further delay from Washington.

Please let me know if I can provide any additional information that would be helpful to the Committee moving forward in these discussions or other matters that arise during 117th Congress. Thank you for your hard work to ensure the swift and equitable distribution of \$350 billion worth of state and local assistance nationwide to communities, including Fresno.

Sincerely,



Mayor Jerry Dyer
City of Fresno, California



Office of the Mayor

3300 Capitol Avenue, Building A | P.O. Box 5006, Fremont, CA 94537-5006

510 284-4011 *ph* | 510 284-4001 *fax* | www.fremont.gov

February 5, 2021

The Honorable Ro Khanna
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Khanna,

America's economic crisis from the COVID-19 pandemic is not over. Most municipalities like the City of Fremont, still have not received meaningful levels of federal aid. By separating, and ultimately dropping, state and local aid from the omnibus appropriations and emergency spending bill in December, Congress has injected significant uncertainty into the capability of local governments to carry out their operations, just as a third wave of COVID-19 infections threaten to spread uncontrollably.

National League of Cities' (NLC) latest revised estimate, based on the most recently available fiscal data and updated survey results, is that municipal governments are still facing a \$90 billion blow to their current year revenues.

Local elected leaders like myself have been working on the front lines of the emergency response. I've been managing resources to support the efforts of our first responders, coordinating regionally with other leaders across jurisdictional lines, enacting difficult and fiscally challenging emergency measures to slow the coronavirus epidemic, passing ordinances to limit the worst economic outcomes for residents and small businesses on the margins, and spending as necessary to protect public health and the economy in this extraordinary time.

At the same time, the still urgent, unmet need for federal aid has struck at the heart of local capacity to both carry out emergency response and participate in economic recovery. Loss of capacity is directly related to local government job losses.

Though the City of Fremont prides itself on our fiscal well-standing and responsibility, the City has experienced a reduction in revenue and will need to utilize funding from our uncertainty reserves. As the public health restrictions continue, we will continue to experience these reductions in the over the next fiscal year and may need to use the uncertainty reserves further.

Without additional aid and an appropriate, fair, and equitable allocation of this aid for all municipal and county governments, a preventable setback in household and economic stability services, and vaccination distribution, will be unavoidable.

For the next package, I ask that you adhere to the following principles for direct intervention and prevention of local government fiscal decline resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic:

- **Emergency funding should be fair and appropriate for each and every local government, with no minimum population threshold for eligibility.**

- **Aid should be directly allocated through familiar and proven government revenue sharing programs.**
- **Entanglement of state and local funding should be minimized.**

To be clear, communities like mine are not asking for a “bail-out” of local governments. Local governments do not expect the federal government to make up for every loss of local revenue. Rather, we are seeking an additional lifeline for local governments to put off and ultimately avoid options of last resort, including making temporary cuts permanent at a time when our communities need local services most, laying-off furloughed municipal and county employees who comprise a large share of America’s middle class, and indefinitely cancelling capital projects that will further impact local employment, business contracts and overall investment in the economy.

In other words, we are seeking federal assistance to save America’s cities and counties; and to make local leaders part of the solution to economic recovery.

Thank you for your swift action during this truly unique moment in American history. As partners working hand-in-hand both within our communities and also with the federal government and states, we are ready to continue to ensure that America emerges from this pandemic stronger than we were before.

Sincerely,



Lily Mei
Mayor
City of Fremont

cc. Archana Sridhar, Senior Specialist Grassroots Advocacy, NLC, sridhar@nlc.org
Sam Caygill, East Bay Division, League of California Cities, scaygill@cacities.org
League of California Cities, SupportLocalRecovery@cacities.org



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
PAUL FADELLI

February 5, 2021

The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
503 Cannon HOB
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
Sent via Electronic Mail

Dear Representative DeSaulnier:

America's economic crisis from the COVID-19 pandemic is not over. Most municipalities like El Cerrito still have not received meaningful levels of federal aid. By separating, and ultimately dropping, state and local aid from the omnibus appropriations and emergency spending bill in December, Congress has injected significant uncertainty into the capability of local governments to carry out their operations, just as a third wave of COVID-19 infections threaten to spread uncontrollably.

As you well know, cities and counties are facing upwards of \$90 billion in revenue loss in the current year. Already dealing with ongoing but manageable fiscal difficulties, El Cerrito has had to dramatically cut staff and services as a result of COVID-19. We have put ourselves on a fiscal response plan that will take years to get us back to the level of services we provided just last year. The lack of federal aid has also struck at the heart of local capacity to both carry out emergency response and participate in economic recovery.

Without an appropriate, fair, and equitable allocation of this aid for all municipal and county governments, a preventable setback in household and economic stability services, and vaccination distribution, will be unavoidable.

As the League of California Cities and the National League of Cities has already asked of Congress, I agree and request that Congress accept the following principles to respond to the fiscal impacts that COVID-19 has to local governments:

- **Emergency funding should be fair and appropriate for each and every local government, with no minimum population threshold for eligibility.**
- **Aid should be directly allocated through familiar and proven government revenue sharing programs.**
- **Entanglement of state and local funding should be minimized.**

We are not asking for a bailout. We are seeking federal assistance to save America's cities and counties, and to make local leaders part of the solution to economic recovery.

Thank you for your support of action during this truly unique moment in American history. As partners working hand-in-hand both within our communities and also with the federal government and states, we are ready to continue to ensure that America emerges from this pandemic stronger than we were before.

Sincerely,

Paul Fadelli

Paul Fadelli, Mayor
City of El Cerrito

cc. Archana Sridhar, Senior Specialist Grassroots Advocacy, NLC, sridhar@nlc.org
Sam Caygill, East Bay Division, League of California Cities, scaygill@cacities.org
League of California Cities, SupportLocalRecovery@cacities.org



February 5, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House Speaker
United States House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: In Support of Direct State and Local Government Assistance

Dear Congressional Leaders:

As bipartisan mayors of the 13 largest cities in the nation's largest state – representing more than 11 million residents – we remain focused on addressing the devastating, and enduring impacts of the COVID-19 crisis. As this unprecedented global health pandemic continues to evolve and impact our communities at ever-deepening levels, we urge you to include significant, direct state and local government assistance as outlined in the President's American Rescue Plan in any coronavirus relief package.

We appreciate the assistance our federal partners have already provided in previous bills. These critical resources were invested prudently in our pandemic response, such as PPE, testing and contact tracing for essential workers and the public, vital small business support, food distribution to our most in need, as well as digital inclusion efforts. Our cities also concentrated on service gaps for our most vulnerable residents and small businesses, especially the basic nutrition and shelter needs of our seniors, youth, sick and unemployed. Broadband access for school children and remote workers, along with job placement and workforce training for the unemployed, have and will remain other areas of significant focus.

The immense scale and growing needs facing our cities require additional resources and direct, state and local aid is essential. We are seeing significant declines in local revenue that supports critical service delivery – including public safety, nutrition assistance, sanitation, and housing. We are diligently working to balance our budgets, reaching into local financial reserves,

reallocating local resources, and still, we are facing difficult decisions to cut services and staff to stay afloat during these difficult times. Simply put, partnership with the federal government is more critical now than ever.

We respectfully urge Congress and the White House to work together to ensure our cities have the resources and flexibility necessary to overcome this national emergency and to help our nation's economy recover.

Thank you for your leadership in this critical time in our nation's history.

Sincerely,

California Big City Mayors Coalition



Sam Liccardo
Mayor
City of San José



Eric Garcetti
Mayor
City of Los Angeles



Todd Gloria
Mayor
City of San Diego



London Breed
Mayor
City of San Francisco



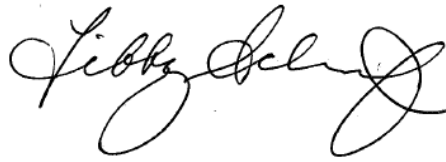
Jerry Dyer
Mayor
City of Fresno



Darrell Steinberg
Mayor
City of Sacramento



Robert Garcia
Mayor
City of Long Beach



Libby Schaaf
Mayor
City of Oakland



Karen Goh
Mayor
City of Bakersfield



Harry Sidhu
Mayor
City of Anaheim



Vicente Sarmiento
Mayor
City of Santa Ana



Patricia Lock-Dawson
Mayor
City of Riverside



Kevin Lincoln
Mayor
City of Stockton

MAILING ADDRESS:
City Hall
150 City Park Way
Brentwood, CA 94513
Phone: 925.516.5400
Fax: 925.516.5401
www.brentwoodca.gov

CITY MANAGER
150 City Park Way
Phone: 925.516.5440
Fax: 925.516.5441

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
150 City Park Way
Phone: 925.516.5405
Fax: 925.516.5407

**FINANCE AND
INFORMATION SYSTEMS**
150 City Park Way
Phone: 925.516.5460
Fax: 925.516.5401

HUMAN RESOURCES
150 City Park Way
Phone: 925.516.5191
Fax: 925.516.5446

PARKS AND RECREATION
150 City Park Way
Phone: 925.516.5444
Fax: 925.516.5445

POLICE
9100 Brentwood Boulevard
Phone: 925.634.6911
24 Hr. Dispatch: 925.809.7911
Fax: 925.809.7799

**PUBLIC WORKS
Engineering Division**
150 City Park Way
Phone: 925.516.5420
Fax: 925.516.5421

Operations Division
2201 Elkins Way
Phone: 925.516.6000
Fax: 925.516.6001

February 5, 2021

The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
mark.desaulnier@mail.house.gov

The Honorable Jerry McNerney
ca9districtschedule@mail.house.gov

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Honorable Congressmen:

America's economic crisis from the COVID-19 pandemic is not over. Most municipalities like the City of Brentwood still have not received meaningful levels of federal aid. By separating, and ultimately dropping, state and local aid from the omnibus appropriations and emergency spending bill in December, Congress has injected significant uncertainty into the capability of local governments to carry out their operations, just as a third wave of COVID-19 infections threaten to spread uncontrollably.

National League of Cities' (NLC) latest revised estimate, based on the most recently available fiscal data and updated survey results, is that municipal governments are still facing a \$90 billion blow to their current year revenues.

Local elected leaders like myself have been working on the front lines of the emergency response. I've been managing resources to support the efforts of our first responders, coordinating regionally with other leaders across jurisdictional lines, enacting difficult and fiscally challenging emergency measures to slow the coronavirus epidemic, passing ordinances to limit the worst economic outcomes for residents and small businesses on the margins, and spending as necessary to protect public health and the economy in this extraordinary time.

At the same time, the still urgent, unmet need for federal aid has struck at the heart of local capacity to both carry out emergency response and participate in economic recovery. Loss of capacity is directly related to local government job losses.

Without additional aid and an appropriate, fair, and equitable allocation of this aid for all municipal and county governments, a preventable setback in household and economic stability services, and vaccination distribution, will be unavoidable.

For the next package, I ask that you adhere to the following principles for direct intervention and prevention of local government fiscal decline resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic:

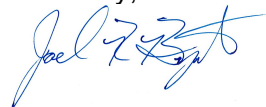
- **Emergency funding should be fair and appropriate for each and every local government, with no minimum population threshold for eligibility.**
- **Aid should be directly allocated through familiar and proven government revenue sharing programs.**
- **Entanglement of state and local funding should be minimized.**

To be clear, communities like mine are not asking for a “bail-out” of local governments. Local governments do not expect the federal government to make up for every loss of local revenue. Rather, we are seeking an additional lifeline for local governments to put off and ultimately avoid options of last resort, including making temporary cuts permanent at a time when our communities need local services most, laying-off furloughed municipal and county employees who comprise a large share of America’s middle class, and indefinitely cancelling capital projects that will further impact local employment, business contracts and overall investment in the economy.

In other words, we are seeking federal assistance to save America’s cities and counties; and to make local leaders part of the solution to economic recovery.

Thank you for your swift action during this truly unique moment in American history. As partners working hand-in-hand both within our communities and also with the federal government and states, we are ready to continue to ensure that America emerges from this pandemic stronger than we were before.

Sincerely,



Joel Bryant
Mayor
City of Brentwood

cc. Honorable Steven M. Glazer, Senator: senator.glazer@senate.ca.gov
Honorable Jim Frazier, Assembly Member: assemblymember.frazier@assembly.ca.gov
Honorable Diane Burgis, CCC Supervisor: supervisor_burgis@bos.cccounty.us
Honorable City Council Members, City of Brentwood: citycouncil@brentwoodca.gov
Archana Sridhar, Senior Specialist Grassroots Advocacy, NLC: sridhar@nlc.org
Sam Caygill, East Bay Division, League of California Cities: scaygill@cacities.org
League of California Cities: SupportLocalRecovery@cacities.org



American Federation of State, County,
and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

info@afscme3299.org
afscme3299.org
510. 844. 1160

February 4, 2021

The Honorable Katie Porter
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Porter:

AFSCME Local 3299 is the University of California's (UC) largest employee union, representing more than 27,000 Service workers, Patient Care Technical workers, Skilled Craft workers, and more at UC's ten campuses, five medical centers, numerous clinics, research laboratories, and UC Hastings College of Law. **I urge you to support the \$350 billion in urgently needed funding for states, local governments, tribes, and territories under consideration** in the House Committee on Oversight and Reform as part of H. Con. Res. 11.

The UC system is the state's 3rd largest employer, and it has been reeling from staggering coronavirus costs. The UC was smacked with \$558 million in unanticipated costs in just the month of March of last year alone. From March through August of 2020 the financial toll on the UC system was roughly \$2.2 billion. Our state lawmakers are in the process of making decisions on our state budget for 2021-2022. The budget numbers will shape the lives and futures of working families. Unlike the federal government our state cannot run a budget deficit. Enactment of \$350 billion in flexible state and local aid will determine whether and how our state tackles the health, economic, educational, and housing inequities laid bare and indeed worsened by the pandemic.

As you consider allocating \$350 billion in federal funds know it will allow California to keep frontline workers employed, and maintain vital services, help our economy, and have the staff and resources to get vaccines distributed and stop the virus from spreading. Our members have stood courageously on the front lines of the fight against the pandemic, doing everything in their power to keep their communities safe, healthy, and strong. Despite risking their lives to save us, nationwide 1.4 million of these front-line public service workers have been laid off due to budget shortfalls caused by the pandemic. That is nearly double the total number of jobs lost during the entire Great Recession. We can't beat this pandemic, distribute the vaccine, or get our country back to work if we thank these everyday heroes with pink slips.

I ask that as you deliberate your vote you consider workers like Phil Fagan - a Psych Technician who is fortunately recovering from COVID-19 after contracting the virus while servicing his community. As a lifelong City of Irvine resident, Phil has spent the last ten years working at UC Irvine Medical Center as a patient care technician in the psychiatry department. With rise for need in mental health care services during the pandemic, Phil stepped up to be frontline hero to treat and care for patients and members of his community without fear. When Phil contracted the virus himself he counted on his coworkers and family to care for him with the same care and kindness with which he treats his patients. After a month since falling ill, Phil is recovering and is looking forward to return to work to continue to care for patients, however fear of budget cutbacks has put his ability to continue to support patients at risk.

UC'S LARGEST EMPLOYEE UNION

AFSCME Local 3299 urges you to stand with Phil Fagan and 27,000 of our members across California, when Congress considers the needed \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 bill with its \$350 billion in urgently needed help to states and localities. We ask that you oppose any amendment to cut or narrow the uses of these funds for **states, local governments, tribes, and territories**. Your support for this legislation sends a clear message that this Congress will not ignore the harm and suffering caused by the pandemic to and you will stand with us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathryn Lybarger', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kathryn Lybarger
President, AFSCME 3299



February 7, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Republican Leader
House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

ALAMEDA COUNTY (OAKLAND)

AUSTIN

BALTIMORE

BOSTON

CHICAGO

CLEVELAND

COLUMBUS

DALLAS COUNTY

DENVER

DETROIT

HOUSTON

KANSAS CITY

LONG BEACH

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

MARICOPA COUNTY (PHOENIX)

MARION COUNTY (INDIANAPOLIS)

MECKLENBURG COUNTY (CHARLOTTE)

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY (MIAMI)

MINNEAPOLIS

MULTNOMAH COUNTY (PORTLAND)

NEW YORK CITY

PHILADELPHIA

SAN ANTONIO

SAN DIEGO COUNTY

SAN FRANCISCO

SANTA CLARA COUNTY (SAN JOSE)

SEATTLE - KING COUNTY (SEATTLE)

SOUTHERN NV HEALTH DIST. (LAS VEGAS)

TARRANT COUNTY (FORT WORTH)

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the Big Cities Health Coalition (BCHC), I write in support of legislation to implement President Biden's American Rescue Plan. We are so grateful that Congress recognizes the importance of providing resources to local communities to address the COVID-19 pandemic. With the circulation of new variants of the virus, it is likely that this threat to our communities will last for a long-time to come. We urge you to take swift action on this legislation as we work in concert with state and federal governments to protect the public's health, a critical component to ensuring the nation's economic recovery as well.

BCHC is made up of health officials leading 30 of the nation's largest metropolitan health departments, who together serve nearly 62 million, or one-in-five, Americans. Our members have been on the front lines for a year now addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, and they, and their communities, need the resources this plan would provide. Below we highlight some of the key areas of the American Rescue Plan that will have the greatest impact in strengthening our members' COVID-19 response:

Local health departments need funding and durable goods. While Congress provided critical funding in 2020, our member departments and their communities need sufficient resources to get local expeditiously. Specifically, they need additional funding to provide vaccination, testing, and contact tracing services. And, they need increased and *direct* access to durable goods ranging from vaccines and needles to testing supplies to personal protective equipment (PPE). Without additional funding, their response, including vaccine distribution, will lag. We fully support the proposal to increase production of necessary PPE, and urge Congress and the Administration to use the Defense Production Act (DPA) to manufacture more and better masks, with the goal of have N-95s available for the public at large (recognizing we must first have sufficient supply for first responders).

Vaccines and vaccinations. Local health departments have been consistently vocal that the "last mile" of getting shots in people's arms was going to be extremely difficult. Unfortunately, the slow and limited supply coupled with contradictory messaging has led to what is perceived as chaos, and what in reality are real challenges, on the ground. Specifically, we support the \$20 billion earmarked for vaccines, which needs to address increased supply and scaling up vaccination sites and data collection, which the American Rescue plan recognizes.

Testing. Testing remains a challenge in some communities, particularly as health department staff must also distribute vaccines, and schools are trying to get and stay open. A sufficient supply of accurate tests are a way to build confidence in school and business reopenings and can help slow the spread while awaiting a robust vaccine supply for the community at large.

Governmental Public Health Workforce. The public health workforce has been losing jobs for well over a decade, and with each economic downturn, the workforce contracts. While emergency funding allows an immediate surge to assist with the response, it in no way can sustain the public workforce over time. Investments over time are necessary to build a pipeline of jobs in communities across the country that reflect the community in which they serve. Doing so will strengthen the system for the ongoing public needs and the next public health emergency. As such, we strongly support the \$8 Billion earmarked for the public health workforce in the American Rescue Plan.

Data Infrastructure and Systems. Data systems in public health departments are antiquated, suffer from decades of underinvestment, and don't talk to each other. We can't keep putting a new and separate system in place every time there's a crisis. Rather, we need sustained investments in systems that health care and public health at all levels of government and in communities across the country can access and use effectively. The \$700 million in the American Rescue Plan is a needed down payment building on other emergency dollars Congress has allocated for data since the pandemic began. It is critical to the public's health that these systems are upgraded and fully funded for years to come; it necessitates significant federal investment to do so.

Equity. COVID-19 has laid bare the many inequities so many of us have worked to address over the years – systemic racism, income inequality, a lack of paid sick leave, and enormous health disparities that all of these challenges exacerbate. COVID-19 has taken advantage of those with pre-existing conditions, like diabetes or asthma, and others who needed to work during outbreaks to provide for their families. Both of these realities have disproportionately impact people of color and low-income Americans. Moving forward, vaccine distribution, funding, and policy at all levels of government must work to address the inequitable impact of COVID-19 on communities of color and the most vulnerable among us. We also need to make sure that our data systems are able to hot spot disparities and work to address varying impacts in our communities.

State and local government funding. As large local jurisdictions, we urge you to include overarching support for local and state governments. Funding to offset decreasing tax revenues is critical to ensuring that needed services at the local and state level continue. Most of our jurisdictions, along with most states, cannot run deficits and must balance their budgets. Our member jurisdictions also need support to fund policy measures like paying people to stay home if sick or if they need to quarantine, or paying restaurants and bars to stay closed. Now is not the time to let up on common sense public health measures or efforts to assist people in our communities stay afloat until the economy recovers. Such actions go hand in hand to both bring the pandemic to an "end" and to support the rebuilding of our devastated economies as quickly as possible.

Communications and messaging. Finally, we also need your help as the nation's leaders to reset the public's expectations around vaccination and public health measures, including consistent and accurate information about the pandemic and its impact. Our elected and health leaders at the federal government, and in states and communities across the country, must use their bully pulpit to reinforce the safety of these vaccines. We also need to be clearer about the current supply of vaccine, and that

while we each wait our turn, public health mitigation measures – masking, social distancing, staying home when one can – are our best response to be able to send our kids back to school, reopen safely, and truly put this pandemic behind us. A massive communication campaign to reach all segments of society is an important part of getting this message out.

Thank you again for your continued support as we tackle the COVID-19 pandemic together. We once again urge swift passage of legislation to get resources into communities as soon as possible. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at juliano@bigcitieshealth.org or 202-557-6507.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chrissie Juliano". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small dot above the 'i' in Juliano.

Chrissie Juliano, MPP

Executive Director

Big Cities Health Coalition



February 4, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, Leader McCarthy and Leader McConnell:

I am grateful for the continued Congressional assistance and for your personal and active support to address the most pressing needs of State and local governments in responding to COVID-19. Therefore, it is with a sense of urgency that I appeal to you for quick action to approve the “American Rescue Plan,” the COVID relief package offered by President Biden and Vice President Harris.

Cities have been — and continue to be — on the front lines of this crisis, working tirelessly to protect our residents, support our businesses, and maintain the delivery of essential services. In Tucson, we have fought to keep our community safe, provide COVID testing, maintain transit services for our essential workers, provide rental and utility assistance, secure broadband services for our disadvantaged populations, provide small business and art venue support, and public safety relief our community needs to survive the COVID pandemic. We have done so with the collaboration of the federal government with CARES Act dollars, the most recent COVID relief bill, and even tapping City general funds, to respond to the emergency. Out of our commitment to transparency, we have created an online [storyboard](#) where the public can view how the City has spent dollars that we received from the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) under the CARES Act.

The needs of our City and the community continue to grow at a time when there are limited available resources and the COVID crisis explodes in Arizona. Specific provisions of President Biden’s American Rescue Plan would provide the assistance our community so greatly needs. These provisions include:

- \$350 billion in direct and flexible State and local government assistance. We ask that Congress allocate the funds through a modified Community Development Block Grant

(CDBG) formula, as envisioned in the HEROES Act, to ensure the equitable distribution of the funds to all cities and counties. The funds will allow us to continue to provide COVID testing services, vaccination administration and support in the areas of highest risk, secure additional personal protective equipment, protect public safety personnel, and ensure the continuity of essential services that the City provides.

- \$50 billion to expand the nation's coronavirus testing efforts. So far we have provided over \$10 million of our CRF funds for testing support, including for at-risk populations with high community transmission on Tucson's southside, and, at a cost of approximately \$2 million a month, we will exhaust these funds by the end of February.
- \$20 billion national vaccination program to distribute the vaccines to states, localities, Tribes and territories. The City of Tucson is an important partner with Pima County and Tucson Medical Center in providing vaccinations at the Tucson Convention Center. City of Tucson medics, including Fire and EMT, are providing the medical staffing for the vaccination site. However, that medical staffing model is not sustainable. Additional direct resources to the City are necessary to support ramping up the vaccination efforts.
- \$25 billion in additional emergency rental assistance and an extension of the rental and foreclosure moratoriums for the most vulnerable who are on the verge of displacement due to no fault of their own. In 2020, the City of Tucson invested more than \$10 million in CRF funds for rental relief and will invest more than \$16 million provided from the Emergency Rental Assistance Program established in the latest COVID relief bill.
- \$20 billion in relief for public transit agencies, to maintain employment and transit routes for essential workers.
- \$5 billion in home energy and water utility assistance to cover costs and arrears.
- Provide an additional \$1,400 per person in direct financial assistance while also expand eligibility to adult dependents and mixed-status households.
- Reinstate changes to the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act and Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act created by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) and expand them to reimburse employers with fewer than 500 employees, as well as state and local governments, for the cost of leave.

The Biden Plan including \$1.9 trillion in aid is far from excessive; rather it is the bare minimum our States and cities must have to meet our essential missions during this historic challenge. Your support is requested and deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,



Mayor Regina Romero
City of Tucson

cc: Arizona Congressional Delegation

February 5, 2021

The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema
U.S. Senate
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mark Kelly
U.S. Senate
B40B Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Andy Biggs
U.S. House of Representatives
171 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Stanton
U.S. House of Representatives
207 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Sinema and Kelly and Representatives Biggs and Stanton:

On behalf of the citizens of the City of Mesa, thank you for your continued work in securing federal resources to support our efforts to protect the health and safety of our citizens as we continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

While we are extraordinarily grateful for the assistance Congress has provided, as the virus continues to spread and the economic hardship deepens, it is crucial that direct and flexible aid for local governments is included in the COVID-19 relief package being considered by Congress. We support the funding level of \$350 billion as proposed by President Biden.

Both the Trump and Biden Administrations have stated that the country's response to the pandemic is federally backed, state supported, and locally executed. As you know, Mesa was a direct recipient of approximately \$90 million in Coronavirus Relief Funds provided through the *CARES Act* and we worked hard to ensure we were effective stewards of those federal taxpayer dollars. These funds allowed us to enhance our local efforts to: assist nearly 1,000 small businesses; distribute over 3.54 million meals; service over 400 homeless individuals; provide rent and utility assistance to over 2,000 households, alleviating the risk of homelessness for over 6,000 individuals; and enable education access for students.

The resources provided in the *Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act* will certainly benefit our community; however, the only direct local resources were allocated through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program. Mesa received approximately \$15.76 million through this program just two weeks ago, and we have already started processing applications.

Cities like ours bear much of the responsibility for the continued response to COVID-19 in our communities. To properly address the public health, economic, education, housing, and nutrition

crises our citizens are enduring, it is essential that resources get to them as quickly as possible. Cumbersome and lengthy applications processes or state pass-through programs take time that we cannot afford to spare. Local officials know their communities, they know the areas of greatest need, and, as proven by cities like Mesa, they can distribute resources immediately.

With the vaccine's arrival, we can finally see the light at the end of the tunnel. As such, we implore you to ensure that the federal government will provide direct funding to support our efforts and get our communities across the finish line.

We look forward to working with you on this vitally important matter.

Sincerely,



John Giles
Mayor of Mesa

May 27, 2020

Honorable Members of the Arizona Congressional Delegation:

We would like to extend our utmost appreciation for all your efforts in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. Whether it be the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, or the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act, each have been beneficial in preventing the complete collapse of the economy and ensuring support for necessary sectors. Moving forward we request the swift passage of additional direct and flexible local budget support to all cities and towns across the United States. The detrimental impacts of COVID-19 on local governments are substantial and we believe recovery will require extraordinary measures.

The CARES Act passed in mid-March was a tremendous first step in recognizing that local governments are on the front lines of this pandemic, providing the most essential of services. While the first step was substantial, for cities with populations above 500,000 receiving direct funding, it failed to recognize all local governments are being directly impacted by this pandemic and are in need of the same direct and immediate assistance. The language in the CARES Act leaves out 88 of the 91 Arizona cities and towns representing nearly 3 million Arizona residents.

Going forward to the next COVID-19 stimulus bill, we respectfully request your support to include all 91 Arizona cities and towns as recipients of direct and flexible local budget support to municipalities across the country. This virus does not discriminate based on the size of the local government and we believe strongly the next package should reflect the non-discriminatory nature of the virus. We are familiar with multiple direct and flexible local budget support options that have been presented to congressional members over the past several weeks. It is not our intent to squabble over the details other than to say all local governments need assistance that will be imperative in helping local governments address the pandemic and its corresponding fiscal impact.

Arizona's local government entities are fiscally responsible and are required to run balanced budgets. We rely more heavily on sales tax for local revenue, than income or property taxes. While this may be worthy public tax policy to some, the impacts of shutting down our economy to slow the spread of the virus – also a worthy public policy – will be devastating to local coffers. Arizona cities and towns are major employers, providing 70 percent of all public safety personnel in the state. Additionally, we provide other essential services such as water and wastewater services, trash and recycling, parks, public health services, and business development services such as building planning and permitting - without which, communities and local businesses could not operate. Without additional and flexible support, as well as, flexibility for funds that have been previously distributed, Arizona municipalities will be faced with cutting or eliminating critical city services that Arizonans rely on.

In Arizona, initial projections of the economic impact of the pandemic suggest more than \$1 billion in losses for our state government and hundreds of millions for local governments. Across the nation news reports are indicating more than 1 million local government employees could be subject to furloughs and layoffs as a result of this pandemic. The loss of essential local government jobs is not something our economy can easily

sustain while also attempting to traverse the detrimental impacts to other private sectors within the economy. Not only do we employ essential workers, but state and local governments are catalysts for economic recovery through infrastructure investment, accounting for roughly 75 percent of total U.S. infrastructure investments.

We fear that without additional direct and flexible budget support local governments will struggle to quickly return to pre-pandemic levels. Ultimately, this will likely lead to a protracted, rather than robust recovery, not only impacting our essential workers but the state and U.S. economy on aggregate.

Thank you again for your efforts during this pandemic. We ask for your support for our shared constituencies and are confident that our collaboration on this important issue will help Arizona and our nation recover from this unprecedented crisis.

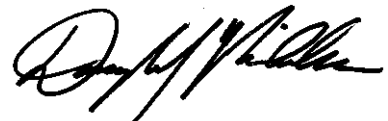
Sincerely,



Christian Price
League President
Mayor, City of Maricopa



Cathy Caillat
League Vice President
Mayor, City of Peoria



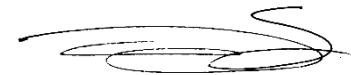
Douglas Nicholls
League Treasurer
Mayor, City of Yuma



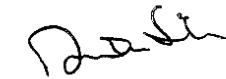
Jeff Serdy
Mayor, City of Apache Junction




Kenneth Weise
Mayor, City of Avondale



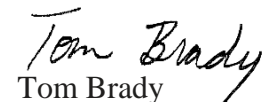
Toney D. King, Sr.
Mayor, City of Benson



David Smith
Mayor, City of Bisbee



Jackie A. Meck
Mayor, City of Buckeye



Tom Brady
Mayor, City of Bullhead City



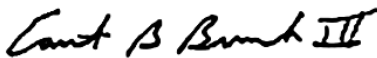
Charles German
Mayor, Town of Camp Verde



Les Peterson
Mayor, Town of Carefree



Craig McFarland
Mayor, City of Casa Grande



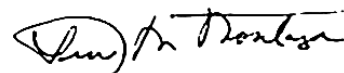
Ernie Bunch
Mayor, Town of Cave Creek



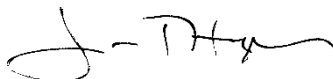
Kevin Hartke
Mayor, City of Chandler



Doug Von Gausig
Mayor, Town of Clarkdale



Luis M. Montoya
Mayor, Town of Clifton



Jon Thompson
Mayor, City of Coolidge




Tim Elinski
Mayor, City of Cottonwood



Donald Huish
Mayor-Elect, City of Douglas



Anne Thurman
Mayor, Town of Duncan



Bryce Hamblin
Mayor, Town of Eagar

Alexis A. Hermosillo
Mayor, City of El Mirage

Micah Powell
Vice Mayor, City of Eloy

Coral J. Evans
Mayor, City of Flagstaff

Tara Walter
Mayor, Town of Florence

Ginny Dickey
Mayor, Town of Fountain Hills

Tommy L. Sikes
Mayor, Town of Gila Bend

Jenn Daniels
Mayor, Town of Gilbert

Jerry Weiers
Mayor, City of Glendale

Al Gameros
Mayor, City of Globe

Georgia Lord
Mayor, City of Goodyear

Valerie Molina
Mayor, Town of Guadalupe

Dean Hetrick
Mayor, Town of Hayden

J. Merrill Young
Mayor, City of Holbrook

Christina "Alex" Barber
Mayor, Town of Jerome

Debra Sommers
Mayor, Town of Kearny

Jennee "Jen" Miles
Mayor, City of Kingman

Cal Sheehy
Mayor, City of Lake Havasu City

Thomas L. Schoaf
Mayor, City of Litchfield Park

Joe Dietz
Mayor, Town of Mammoth

John Giles
Mayor, City of Mesa

Sammy Gonzales
Mayor, Town of Miami

Arturo R. Garino
Mayor, City of Nogales

Joe Winfield
Mayor, Town of Oro Valley

Jerald Bien-Willner
Mayor, Town of Paradise Valley

Dan Beaver
Mayor, Town of Parker

Andrea Wood
Mayor, Town of Patagonia

Kate Gallego
Mayor, City of Phoenix

Greg Mengarelli
Mayor, City of Prescott

Kell Palguta
Mayor, Town of Prescott Valley

Norm Simpson
Mayor, Town of Quartzsite



Gail Barney
Mayor, Town of Queen Creek



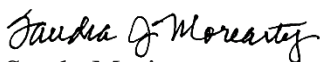
Jason Kouts
Mayor, City of Safford



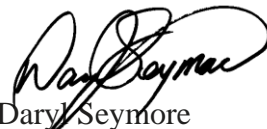
Tom Murphy
Mayor, Town of Sahuarita



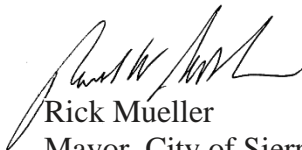
Gerardo Sanchez
Mayor, City of San Luis



Sandy Moriarty
Mayor, City of Sedona



Daryl Seymore
Mayor, City of Show Low



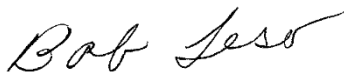
Rick Mueller
Mayor, City of Sierra Vista



Michael "Lynn" Johnson
Mayor, Town of Snowflake



Gerardo Anaya
Mayor, City of Somerton



Robert "Bob" Teso
Mayor, City of South Tucson



Phil Hanson, Jr.
Mayor, Town of Springerville



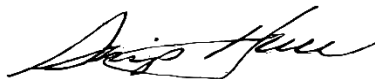
Spence Udall
Mayor, City of St. Johns



Gary Coon
Mayor, Town of Star Valley



Mila Besich
Mayor, Town of Superior



Skip Hall
Mayor, City of Surprise



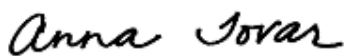
David Smith
Mayor, Town of Taylor



Mark Mitchell
Mayor, City of Tempe



Bob Rivera
Mayor, Town of Thatcher



Anna Tovar
Mayor, City of Tolleson



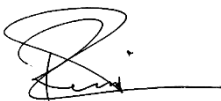
Dustin Escapule
Mayor, City of Tombstone



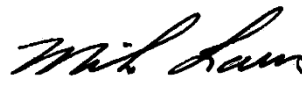
Regina Romero
Mayor, City of Tucson



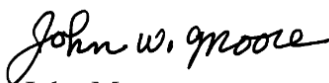
Craig Sanderson
Mayor, Town of Tusayan



Rui Pereira
Mayor, Town of Wickenburg



Mike Laws
Mayor, City of Willcox



John Moore
Mayor, City of Williams



Louis C. Bracamonte
Mayor, Town of Winkelman



Michael LeVault
Mayor, Town of Youngtown

cc:

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The Honorable Martha McSally
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The Honorable Tom O'Halleran
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The Honorable Debbie Lesko
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matthew.simon@mail.house.gov

The Honorable Greg Stanton
United States House of Representatives
128 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
seth.scott@mail.house.gov



American Federation
of Teachers, AFL-CIO

AFT Teachers
AFT PSRP
AFT Higher Education
AFT Public Employees
AFT Nurses and Health
Professionals

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Debbie White, RN
Carl Williams

February 12, 2021

The Honorable Carolyn Maloney
Chairwoman
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Oversight and Reform
Washington, DC 20015

Dear Chairwoman Maloney:

On behalf of the 1.7 million members of the American Federation of Teachers, I write in strong support of the \$350 billion in direct aid to state and local governments being considered in your committee today. This language is an integral part of President Joe Biden's bold, broad \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 rescue plan, which this country desperately needs, and it will provide help for struggling Americans across the nation.

Every person in America deserves the freedom to thrive, fueled by opportunity, justice and a voice in our democracy. That requires not only addressing the multiple crises affecting our country—COVID-19, the economic fallout and inequity, racial injustice, and threats to our democracy—but also creating the just and equitable conditions for economic and educational opportunity for all.

It is vital that the fiscal year 2021 budget reconciliation bill in the Oversight and Reform Committee includes \$350 billion to keep first responders, frontline health workers, educators and other providers of vital services safely on the job. Many states and localities have seen their revenues plummet as a result of the pandemic, even as costs have risen sharply to fight the virus and help millions of struggling people and businesses. State revenues are down some 7 percent compared with before the pandemic, while the need for state services has skyrocketed, with 1 in 3 adults struggling to meet household expenses. Meanwhile, many cities and counties have been hit even harder. The average city with falling revenues has seen collections drop by 21 percent, while costs have soared; counties face similar conditions.

Even after two emergency aid packages passed in the last Congress, state and local governments are facing hundreds of billions of dollars in shortfalls, as the cost of providing public services in a safe manner has increased. The pandemic has meant added costs for these governments as well as added healthcare costs. This bill is badly needed to give communities and families the chance to thrive after so many months, and years, of pain.

The **American Federation of Teachers** is a union of professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through the work our members do.



We also support provisions in the bill that provide emergency paid leave for civilian federal employees and postal workers. Allowing these employees to be eligible for up to 600 hours of leave until Sept. 30, 2021, when they are forced to quarantine themselves or care for a family member, is the right thing to do. We support this inclusion.

I commend you for your leadership in moving this important bill forward and look forward to working with you to get this and the other parts of the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan signed into law as soon as possible.

Finally, we strongly urge all committee members to reject any amendments that would undermine the delivery of the \$350 billion in critical aid to state and local governments.

Thank you for considering our views on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Randi Weingarten". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Randi" and last name "Weingarten" clearly distinguishable.

Randi Weingarten
President

RW : emc opeiu #2 afl-cio



Lee Saunders
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Elissa McBride
Secretary-Treasurer

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Vicki Hall
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Johanna Puno Hester
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Baltimore, MD

Douglas Moore Jr.
San Diego, CA

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Chicago, IL

Debbie Parks
Hamilton, NJ

Randy Perreira
Honolulu, HI

Steven Quick Sr.
Indianapolis, IN

Jose Ramirez
San Juan, PR

Lawrence A. Roehrig
Lansing, MI

Joseph P. Rugola
Columbus, OH

Alan F. Shanahan
Los Angeles, CA

Paul Spink
Milwaukee, WI

Mary E. Sullivan
Albany, NY

Anthony Wells
New York, NY

Mike Yestramski
Olympia, WA

February 5, 2021

Committee on Oversight and Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 1.4 million members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), I write to ask the House Committee on Oversight and Reform to include \$350 billion in unrestricted aid to states, counties, local governments, tribes, and territories in its final budget reconciliation language. The need could not be more urgent – for the health of our communities, the education of our children, and the economic livelihoods of small businesses and American families in every state in this country.

We are in the midst of a once in a century pandemic. On top of the untold pain and suffering families are experiencing as they lose loved ones to a deadly virus, we also find ourselves in the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.

Through all of this, everyday heroes have stepped up to lend a helping hand to the struggling communities around them. After coming off a 12-hour shift, [nurses in New Mexico](#) – who like so many other nurses around the country have taken the place of family as the one to hold a dying COVID-19 patient's hand – recorded videos to encourage their community to mask up, get vaccinated, and beat the pandemic together. In Los Angeles, library workers scrambled to [develop online programming](#) to continue to serve infants, children, parents, and caregivers, when it was no longer safe to do so in person. When the pandemic struck in Hawaii, one public health safety inspector [purchased PPE with money out of his own pocket](#) to keep his co-workers safe as they kept everything from restaurants to swimming pools safe for the general public.

It is past time to act boldly and give our front-line workers a fighting chance to beat this pandemic and get our country back to work. Let's make sure our unemployment offices are adequately staffed so the extended UI from Congress gets to people in need quickly. Let's make sure social service workers have manageable caseloads as they work to keep our children safe. That our brave firefighters, police officers, EMTs, and other first responders aren't fired or furloughed due to budget cuts. That our [front-line workers can get the vaccines](#) they desperately need to be safe on the job. And that our schools can re-open safely and custodial staff will have the staffing and resources they need for frequent cleanings.

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

TEL (202) 429-1000 FAX (202) 429-1293 TDD (202) 659-0446 WEB www.afscme.org 1625 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036-5687

These essential public services are the backbone of our communities. Good roads, sanitation and clean water are essential to the success of any small business; how can these businesses survive if these services are axed? Some have suggested that a key reason this pandemic is worse than it should have been is because public service jobs – including public health jobs – never returned to the levels they were at before the Great Recession; if we gut them even further, how can we prepare ourselves for the next crisis America faces? And how can we truly say we want to increase jobs as we lay off our front-line heroes? You cannot add jobs by subtracting them.

Nationwide, over 1.4 million of our front-line public service workers have already been laid off due to budget shortfalls caused by the pandemic. Custodian Bill Rosser was one of 139 support staff who lost their jobs as part of [three rounds of layoffs](#) at Ohio University. In other states, essential health care workers like Pat DeHart have been asked to take on contact tracing roles in [addition to their normal jobs](#) of immunizing school-aged children and adults. States, cities, counties, tribes, and territories are counting on Congress to help them bring people back to work and prevent additional layoffs and service cuts.

Substantial investment is urgently needed to help Americans that are suffering and to stimulate economic recovery. **I urge you to support the \$350 billion in urgently needed funding for states, local governments, tribes, and territories under consideration** in the House Committee on Oversight and Reform as part of H. Con. Res. 11. I also urge you to oppose any amendments that would lower or restrict this needed \$350 billion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bailey K. Childers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Bailey K. Childers
Director of Federal Government Affairs

BKC:cg



190 West Ostend St., #101
Baltimore, MD 21230
Phone: 410.547.1515
Fax: 410.837.5436

February 4, 2021

Patrick Moran
President

Cherrish Vick
Secretary-Treasurer

Executive Vice-Presidents:

Mildred Womble
Local 3655

Patrick Okafor
Local 1678

Anissa Pierce-Sessoms
Local 1081

Regional Vice-Presidents:

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Central Region

Charlotte Leach
Central Region

Geron Mackall
Central Region

Relford Matthews Sr.
Eastern Region

Jody Curry
Southern Region

Frederick Olawoye
Southern Region

Jeff Grabenstein
Western Region

Ginger Noble
Western Region

Unit Vice-Presidents:

Debra Latson
DHS

Denise Henderson
DJS

Rowrite Stevens
DPSCS

Saul Walker
Higher Education

Christine Duffy
MDH

Wynton Johnson
MDOT

Wonderful Page-McGlowen
MVA

Tierra Day
P&P

Sean Santmyire
SUPE

Trustees:

Jeff Fiory
Local 1072

Pat Davis
Local 3655

The Honorable Ben Cardin
The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
The Honorable Andy Harris
The Honorable Dutch Ruppersberger
The Honorable John Sarbanes
The Honorable Anthony Brown
The Honorable Steny Hoyer
The Honorable David Trone
The Honorable Kweisi Mufume
The Honorable Jamie Raskin
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Maryland Congressional Delegation:

AFSCME Maryland Council 3 represents more than 20,000 Maryland state and employees and 6,500 higher education employees. On their behalf and their communities, we **urge you to support the \$350 billion in urgently needed funding for states, local governments, tribes, and territories under consideration** in the House Committee on Oversight and Reform as part of H. Con. Res. 11.

Our members help vulnerable Marylanders buy healthy foods, pay energy bills, and obtain medical assistance. During the pandemic they have been a lifeline for Marylanders who have seen the pandemic wipe out their jobs and savings. Our members keep the Maryland highways safe. They are dealing with COVID-19 cases on their jobs in state and Baltimore city correctional facilities, the state psychiatric hospital centers, and in all of the campus housing of the University System of Maryland campuses. Our members guide bereaved families through the court probate process and registry of wills. They protect decedents last wishes, including the more than 7,000 Marylanders who have died from COVID-19. Our members at the Maryland Department of Labor have been working to process a record number of unemployment insurance claims filed during the COVID-19 pandemic to help families stay in their homes and their children fed. In short, the members of AFSCME Maryland Council 3 provide the vital services that make Maryland happen.

Our state lawmakers are in the process of making decisions on our state budget for FY2022. These budget numbers will shape the lives and futures of working families. As you well know, unlike the federal government our state cannot run a budget deficit. Enactment of \$350 billion in flexible state and local aid will determine whether and how our state tackles the health, economic, educational, and housing inequities laid bare and indeed worsened by the pandemic.

As you consider allocating \$350 billion in federal funds know it will allow Maryland to keep frontline workers employed, and maintain vital services, help our economy, and

Every AFSCME Maryland State and University contract guarantees a right to union representation.

An employee has the right to a union representative if requested by the employee.

800.492.1996

Find us: afscmemd.org
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Follow/Tweet us: [@afscmemaryland](https://twitter.com/afscmemaryland)

staff and resources to get vaccines distributed and stop the virus from spreading. Our members have stood courageously on the front lines of the fight against the pandemic, doing everything in their power to keep their communities safe, healthy, and strong. Despite risking their lives to save us, nationwide 1.4 million of these front-line public service workers have been laid off due to budget shortfalls caused by the pandemic. That is nearly double the total number of jobs lost during the entire Great Recession. But that's far from the whole story: thousands of Maryland public employees have been infected with COVID-19 while reporting to work to serve Marylanders, particularly Marylanders in crisis. All while already strained resources have been cut, understaffing skyrockets, and a "thanks" and a pat on the head are all we've received from the Hogan Administration. We can't beat this pandemic, distribute the vaccine, or get our state – and country – back to work when our frontline contributions are tokened and pushed off to the side.

I ask that as you deliberate you consider that Maryland public employees have continued to work the frontlines, and have had to fight tooth and nail to obtain personal protection equipment (PPE), get managers and supervisors to enforce (or even create) basic health and safety protocols and plans, and even acknowledge (let alone pay) hazardous duty deserves hazard pay. We've had thousands of members test positive for COVID-19, and we've gone to too many funerals in reverence and respect for the sisters and brothers we've lost. Enough is enough.

AFSCME Maryland Council 3 urges you to stand with those who've ensured Maryland moves forward when Congress considers the needed \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 bill with its \$350 billion in urgently needed help to states and localities. We ask that you oppose any amendment to cut or narrow the uses of these funds for **states, local governments, tribes, and territories**. As many of you have state legislative backgrounds yourself, you know full well what this means to ensuring Maryland state government continues to serve the people of Maryland. Your support for this legislation sends a clear message that this Congress will not ignore the harm and suffering caused by the pandemic, and you will stand with us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Patrick Moran", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Patrick Moran
President, AFSCME Maryland Council 3



Executive Director

Roberta Lynch

Executive Vice Presidents

Ralph Portwood

John Rayburn

Yolanda Woods

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Yurvette Simmons

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Trudy Williams

Tim Worker

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Tom Brown

Jeff Reighter

Tamara Rietman

February 5, 2021

House Committee on Oversight and Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Members of the House Oversight Committee:

On behalf of the more than 70,000 public service workers throughout Illinois represented by our union and the vital public services they provide, I am writing to request that you take immediate action on a comprehensive COVID relief package that includes unrestricted financial assistance to state and local governments.

Since the earliest days of this pandemic, AFSCME members at every level of government have been on the front lines, putting their own health and safety at risk to maintain vital services on which so many depend. State and local public health and emergency management employees have worked tirelessly to guide us through the challenges the coronavirus presents daily. Child protection workers have continued to go into homes to safeguard at-risk children. State and local law enforcement employees have maintained security in our prisons and safety in our communities. Caregivers are on the job round-the-clock to bathe, feed and assist individuals with the most severe developmental disabilities. Nurse aides have remained in service to our aged and ailing veterans despite massive COVID outbreaks in the state's veterans' homes. Human service, environmental protection, transportation employees—and many more—are all on the job to keep Illinois working.

Thousands of these frontline public service workers have contracted COVID, hundreds have had to be hospitalized, many are suffering prolonged aftereffects, and some have died.

It is without question that the State of Illinois and its units of local governments are experiencing immense fiscal pressures caused by COVID-19. The cost of coronavirus response, combined with revenue shortfalls and legal mandates for balanced budgets are causing state and local governments across the country to enact budget cuts, service reductions and further job loss. Illinois is no different.

In a survey conducted by the Illinois Municipal League, 87% of responding municipalities were anticipating revenue shortfalls caused by loss of sales tax, gaming tax and motor fuel tax revenues. Nearly half of those respondents listed reducing municipal services and personnel as a mechanism to bridge the gap in

revenue. That effectively means less governmental assistance when citizens need it most. And it also means layoffs of public employees at a time when unemployment is already at record high levels in our state.

Never has there been a time when the need for vital public services and the demands on government been greater than they are today. Local governmental units all across Illinois, in conjunction with state government, are now working at 'warp speed' to develop and implement a universal vaccination program that can put a halt to the spread of the coronavirus. Failure to include direct aid to state and local governments in any COVID relief legislation -- along with the flexibility necessary to ensure the maintenance of vital public services-- would leave state and local governments hampered in carrying forward this essential task, as well as all of the core services on which our communities depend. It would also, I would note, be counterproductive to stimulating an economic recovery.

AFSCME Council 31 appreciates your leadership in this time of national crisis. We respectfully request your support for President Biden's American Rescue Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roberta Lynch", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Roberta Lynch
Executive Director



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

February 10, 2021

The Honorable Carolyn Maloney
Chairwoman
House Committee on Oversight and Reform
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable James Comer
Ranking Member
House Committee on Oversight and Reform
United States House of Representatives

Dear Chairwoman Maloney and Ranking Member Comer:

I am writing today in support of the committee providing additional funding for state and local governments. I have called for more state and local funding in further stimulus packages on multiple occasions, since states, including Pennsylvania, are in critical need. The unprecedented economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with the additional expense of providing vital PPE and vaccine supplies, has created a complex situation in which states simply do not have the funds to support these expenses unless draconian budget cuts or hefty tax hikes are implemented. Support from the federal government is absolutely necessary to support the states.

Pennsylvania has been laser-focused on keeping our citizens safe and healthy during the largest public health crisis in modern history. My administration responded early and aggressively to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, taking steps that were previously believed unimaginable, with the goal of keeping our citizens, our economy, and our society safe. This has not been without significant pain. Pennsylvania's economy has been severely impacted by the necessary actions we have taken over the past eleven months to mitigate the spread of this deadly virus. Nearly a year ago, Pennsylvania identified our first probable-case of COVID-19 in the Commonwealth. The enormity of the economic impact of the past year is clear, and it is devastating.

In the past eleven months, we have seen sales tax collections plummet as businesses have closed their doors and people have stayed home and stopped or reduced their spending. Hundreds of thousands of citizens have lost their jobs or been forced to take lower paying jobs due to the economic crash. We have seen our economy slow as Pennsylvanians turn inward to protect themselves from this deadly virus. Due to these circumstances, state revenue, particularly in personal income and corporate income taxes, will be negatively impacted by more than \$4.5 billion through fiscal year 2021-22. The overall economic impact to Pennsylvania and local governments is steep, with an estimated state deficit of more than \$2.7 billion in 2019-20, out of a \$35 billion-dollar operating budget, with these impacts also affecting future fiscal years. This is a fiscal impact we have not experienced since the worst of the Great Recession.

While facing steep revenue losses, states have been forced to take on additional expenses as a result of the global pandemic. From bringing on infectious disease and vaccine experts, to purchasing PPE for our frontline workers, to expanded unemployment compensation, the strictly financial costs

of this pandemic continue to pile up. I am proud of my administration, which seeks to maximize the use every dollar we spend, but we can only stretch our finances so far. States were expected to bear the majority of the cost of this pandemic and are quickly approaching our limit without additional support from the federal government.

If additional funding is not allocated to the states, Pennsylvania will be forced to examine implementing draconian cuts to vital social services or steep tax increases due to the revenue shortfalls. We will not be able to fund critical education and training programs that provide our workforce with an economic bridge to recovery. We will not be able to open grant and loan programs to businesses who are struggling to get back on their feet after COVID-19 related closures. We will not be able to help hospitals and nursing facilities fill the budgetary holes opening up as they provide life-saving services to Pennsylvanians. We will not be able to expand social safety net programs, which have proven critical throughout this pandemic. We will be forced to ask for massive tax increases from our citizens to supplement these basic expectations of our government at a time when many are hurting financially and already struggling to protect their family's economic viability. That is a burden that is far too large to ask Pennsylvanians to bear.

The Commonwealth was relieved to be granted aid under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) in April 2020. Because of the non-supplantation language included in the bill, we could not use any of the CARES Act funding to build a balanced budget and had to explore alternatives. I continue to urge Congress, in further stimulus packages, to roll back this language and permit states to use federal funds to balance our budget and build a viable plan for getting ourselves out of this crisis with minimal fiscal damage.

The funding we received last year proved essential in assisting Pennsylvania in combatting the financial needs posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, but it is far from what is necessary to meet the moment. The pandemic has exposed and exacerbated holes in our safety net programs, causing widespread economic devastation putting millions of Pennsylvanians at risk of poverty and homelessness. States and local governments need additional funding from the federal government for critical highway construction; transit funding; financial assistance for families, particularly those with school age children in need of child care during the school day; support for direct care workers and long-term care facilities; resources to mitigate learning loss; and for small businesses to adapt to the changing marketplace, among other vital uses. Pennsylvania will not be able to support these public goods without federal support.

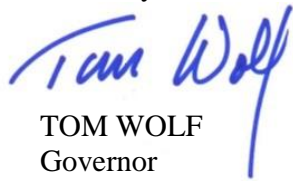
Those opposed to additional funding for state and local governments claim it disproportionately benefits traditionally "blue" states, which have mishandled their budgets and are now trying to seek bailouts from the federal government. Let me be clear in that this criticism is completely invalid. Every state in our union is suffering from the economic pitfalls of this pandemic, from the reddest rural areas to the bluest cities. Partisanship has no effect on the financial impacts of this public health crisis. In Pennsylvania, we are constitutionally required to pass a balanced budget each year. This legislative process is spearheaded by the General Assembly, which in my six years as Governor has been controlled by a Republican majority. This overly simplistic, generalized argument that Democratic states are fiscally irresponsible is not only wrong, but it also plays up a divisive and hyper-partisan rhetoric we are all working to eliminate in American politics, especially during these unprecedented times. States are anguishing equally from the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, regardless of Democratic or Republican leadership.

State and local government funding has also been cut from additional COVID-19 stimulus packages over high spending and price tag concerns. While I understand the concerns presented in this

argument, now is not the appropriate time to worry about our national debt. Our citizens need help. They need it quickly, and they need it to be fully funded. Providing aid to state and local governments allows us to expand workforce education and training programs to provide a bridge to recovery to those forced out of work. States can implement grant programs to assist industries which have been hardest hit by this pandemic, such as restaurants and entertainment venues. We could provide hazard pay to front line workers who have put their lives on the line for nearly a year. While fiscal responsibility is greatly important, what is more important is getting Pennsylvanians back to work and providing them relief from the financial hardships of this pandemic.

Simply put, additional funding must be allocated to state and local governments to protect vital services our citizens rely on every day, as well as mitigate the financial fallout of revenue losses. Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Wolf". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tom" and last name "Wolf" clearly distinguishable.

TOM WOLF
Governor



**THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE
Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802
340-774-0001**

February 11, 2021

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
Chairwoman
House Committee on Oversight and Reform
United States House of Representatives

Dear Chairwoman Maloney:

I write to endorse the Committee on Oversight and Reform's legislation appropriating \$219.8 billion in new Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds, including \$4.5 billion to be allocated among the five United States Territories.

The Committee's proposal recognizes the extraordinary plight of the nation's State, Territorial, and local governments as we struggle simultaneously to defeat the COVID-19 pandemic and keep our economies afloat despite significant drops in revenue across the tourism sector. This crisis is particularly acute for the U.S. Virgin Islands, which derives fully 30% of its gross domestic product from tourism—an industry crushed by the drastic decline in travel forced by the pandemic.

The infusion of new Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds will enable the Territory to respond effectively to the existential financial threat posed by the pandemic and ensure the continuing health, safety, and welfare of the 105,000 American citizens who reside here. My Government strongly supports the proposed legislation.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of the Territory and all the people of the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Albert Bryan Jr.", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Albert Bryan Jr.
Governor

cc: The Honorable Stacey Plaskett, Member of Congress



**THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE
Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802
340-774-0001**

January 26, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Urgent Request for Equitable Allocation of COVID-19 Assistance

Dear Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the Government and U.S. citizens and residents of the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI), I write to request your continued support to ensure equitable treatment of the USVI and the other small Territories in any new COVID-19 stimulus legislation. I am extremely grateful for your leadership on this issue in 2020, and I very much hope that your long-awaited ascension to Majority Leader will yield even greater results in 2021 and the years to come.

You will recall that the CARES Act appropriated \$150 billion in direct Coronavirus Relief Fund aid to States, Territories, and Indian tribes, including \$3 billion for the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the insular areas (the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands). We are grateful for that assistance, which helped the Territory successfully manage its first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic last summer.

As I explained to you in our very helpful telephone conversation last April, I respectfully wish to remind you that the allocation formula for the CARES Act funds significantly under-funded the small Territories. The \$3 billion set-aside for Puerto Rico, D.C., and the insular areas was allocated among them by relative population. This resulted in the USVI receiving approximately \$75 million—about one-sixteenth of the grants provided to even the smallest States, which received a minimum of \$1.25 billion.

Immediately following passage of the CARES Act, my Government sought assistance from our friends in Congress to ensure that any subsequent rounds of direct state and local aid employed a more equitable allocation formula. You were among the first Senators to offer your support for that effort. With new state and local aid legislation likely to be proposed early in the new term, I am seeking your continued support for an equitable distribution of any new aid funds.

As we discussed with you and your staff in 2020, we have proposed allocating one-half of one percent of the total direct-aid appropriation to the four small Territories—a formula successfully used in nearly a dozen other federal programs. We would also support a funding allocation like that adopted by the House in the HEROES Act (H.R. 925). Under that proposal, the four small

Territories and Puerto Rico would receive a lump sum, half of which would be allocated in equal shares to each Territory, while the other half would be allocated by relative population. If the CARES Act had used this formula, the four small Territories combined would have received approximately \$1 billion—about four times what they got, and significantly closer to the amount allocated to the smallest state.

Whatever the exact allocation formula employed, it is critical that any new state and local aid be available to replace lost tax revenues. This is particularly important in the Virgin Islands, which—like other tourism-dependent jurisdictions—has suffered economic losses disproportionate to its number of residents with COVID infections.

I would be grateful for a few minutes of your time later this week to discuss these matters. I can be available on Thursday January 28th or Friday January 29th and would be happy to accommodate your schedules on either of those days, or, if necessary, early the following week. Please let me know if any of those dates are convenient for you.

Thank you, as always, for your longtime and steadfast support of the Virgin Islands. I look forward to years of legislative achievements under your leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Albert Bryan Jr.', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Albert Bryan Jr.
Governor

cc: Hon. Stacey Plaskett, Member of Congress (USVI)
Governors of other Territories

Written Statement of Honorable Jacob Frey
Mayor at City of Minneapolis, Minnesota

February 10, 2021

Members of the U.S. House of Representatives:

For nearly a year, public service workers have stood courageously on the front lines of the fight against the pandemic, doing everything in their power to keep our communities safe, healthy, and strong. Despite risking their lives, 1.4 million of these front-line workers have been laid off due to budget shortfalls caused by the pandemic, nearly double the total number of jobs lost during the entire Great Recession. We need to get public service workers back to work to beat this pandemic and begin the economic recovery.

Local governments across the nation are experiencing budget shortfalls due to the pandemic and have been faced with impossible decisions. Minneapolis is home to restaurants and entertainment venues that are typically thriving and contributing to city revenue. For nearly a year, large entertainment venues have been shuttered and restaurants are striving to adapt and survive. While revenues dry up, demands on essential city services have not diminished. In fact, the obligations of the city have only grown as the City supports small businesses, provides critical public health services, and makes sure City employees are safe. Shifting the burden of lost revenue onto residents experiencing their own hardships was not the answer.

Facing an anticipated loss of 2020 revenue of \$156 million, Minneapolis amended its budget in July making cuts across all departments, reducing contracts and discretionary spending, and implementing a hiring freeze. Limiting layoffs was my priority, but could not be entirely avoided. Thanks to many City employees who sacrificed a portion of their salary through a furlough program, we were able to prevent the need for large-scale layoffs. Cash reserves were also tapped. Cities across the nation are making these tough decisions. As members of the National League of Cities, we know this is not a red city or blue city issue. Cities have not received direct federal aid to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic. Aid to cities would ensure the continuation of essential services and get all hands-on deck to build back better.

President Biden has put forward a bold \$1.9 trillion stimulus plan that has the right priorities. Direct aid to cities will keep city staff on the job including police officers, firefighters, emergency call center personnel, and public works employees. We urge the Oversight and Reform Committee to secure critical aid to state and local governments, tribes, school districts, and U.S. territories so we can keep public service workers on the job when we need them the most.

Sincerely,



Mayor Jacob Frey



July 27, 2020

Honorable Jamie Raskin
United States House of Representatives
412 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Raskin:

Thank you for supporting federal funding that's going toward state and local governments' front-line response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Your leadership on Capitol Hill is recognized and appreciated. As Congress considers another coronavirus relief plan, we wanted to provide you with data reflecting the impact of the epidemic on County finances, a few examples of what we've been able to do with the \$183 million from the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) established under the CARES Act, and several requests that we hope will be included in the next legislative package.

The cumulative economic impact on Montgomery County caused by the coronavirus has been significant with no end in sight. Our FY20, FY21 and FY22 tax revenue estimates have been revised down by nearly \$522 million, of which more than half can be attributed to decreases in income taxes. Property tax estimates, accounting for about 40 percent of our tax revenues, won't be available until mid-October. We can anticipate, however, an increase in property tax appeals as property owners assess the economic turmoil caused by the pandemic. For historical context, in FY10 and FY11 due to the Great Recession of 2007, the County's actual tax revenues decreased by about \$188 million. Simply put, we are in a vice as our revenues continue to drop while our required response efforts remain unabated. We urge that you continue to work with your colleagues to appropriate more direct, flexible fiscal relief for state and local governments, and that any existing CRF allocations, as well as any new funds, be eligible to cover lost revenue. For a deeper look at the impact of COVID on our local revenues, we'd encourage you to read the recent update to the County Council on Tax Revenue Estimates: https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200714/20200714_4_4.pdf

We are grateful to be a direct recipient of \$183 million from the CRF, and we are using the money to support our residents and communities impacted by COVID-19. Tomorrow, the County Council is expected to approve a \$20 million appropriation from the CRF to expand rental assistance for eviction and homelessness prevention. This is extremely important, as you know, because while the State's moratorium on eviction remains in effect as long as the State of Emergency is in place, the federal eviction moratorium will expire at midnight on Friday, July 31st. This CRF allocation is in addition to more than \$10 million in HUD and FEMA funding for eviction prevention and rental assistance, as well as more than \$16 million in FY20 County-funded rental assistance.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused severe income loss and economic distress for many of our residents. In addition to housing assistance, the County has used the CRF to provide financial assistance to Montgomery County for-profit businesses (including sole proprietorships and independent contractors) and nonprofit organizations that have experienced significant economic hardship caused directly or indirectly by the public health emergency. The Public Health Emergency Grant Program received 6,756 applicants and awarded \$21 million to 2,356 organizations. In addition, the County is using \$14 million from the CRF to create the Reopen Montgomery Grant Program. Grant awards of up to \$5,000 will be provided to businesses for expenses incurred to comply with State and County reopening requirements established to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and maintain public health.

The pandemic and the social distancing measures implemented to contain the spread of the virus have disrupted economic activity, caused massive business closures and job losses, and resulted in serious food insecurity challenges for thousands of our County residents. Using \$1 million from the CRF, we established the Food Assistance Provider Capacity Building Grant program to help food assistance providers improve infrastructure and increase their ability to provide food access to hard-to-reach communities during the pandemic and into the future.

And finally- though this is not an exhaustive list- we have set aside \$10 million from the CRF for the Early Care and Education Initiative Recovery Fund. Eligible childcare providers may receive a grant equal to one month of expenses to support early care and education operations until tuition payments are collected as well as compensation for significant financial losses caused directly or indirectly by COVID-19 restrictions. More federal resources will be needed in the months ahead as the economy reopens and families look to access safe and affordable childcare.

As Congress continues to negotiate the terms of another COVID-19 economic assistance package, we urge that this next bill include, at a minimum, \$500 billion in direct and flexible funding for State and local governments, an extension of enhanced federal unemployment benefits, and additional housing assistance to avert evictions and prevent homelessness.

Again, thank you for your advocacy in Congress and your partnership with Montgomery County. Please let us know how we can help you to persuade your colleagues to act quickly on this necessary legislation.

Sincerely,



Marc Elrich
County Executive



Sidney Katz
County Council President

**Board of County
Commissioners**

Stephen A. Wantz, President
Edward C. Rothstein, Vice President
C. Richard Weaver, 2nd Vice President
C. Eric Bouchat
Dennis E. Frazier



Carroll County Government

225 North Center Street
Westminster, Maryland 21157
410-386-2043; 1-888-302-8978
fax 410-386-2485
MD Relay 711/800-735-2258

August 27, 2020

The Honorable Jamie Raskin
412 Cannon House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Congressman Raskin:

The Carroll County Board of Commissioners thanks you for your support of Maryland throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. We respectfully request you take action to extend the deadline for jurisdictions to spend federal funding beyond December 30, 2020.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding is an invaluable resource as we continue to both navigate and recover from the coronavirus impact. Carroll County received its allocation of CARES Act funding from the state and is in the process of carefully distributing the dollars across many areas of the county. We will have continued needs over the coming weeks and months and will need the extended time to benefit as many residents, businesses and organizations as possible.

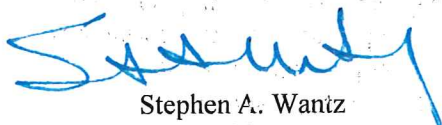
Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and Governor Hogan's declared State of Emergency for Maryland on March 5, 2020, Carroll County has seen unprecedented impacts on health, education, the economy and the provision of services. The COVID-19 public health emergency created unforeseen financial needs and risks for local government. We continue to work, in coordination with the Carroll County Health Department, to incorporate recovery efforts for essential agencies. Our plan implements a variety of strategies across Carroll County to address areas including Employee and Customer Safety, Continuity of Operations, Constituent Needs and Long-Term Resiliency while allowing sufficient resources to provide strong oversight of the federal funding.

The virus and its impacts will continue into early 2021 at a minimum, and the flexibility to stretch some of this money in FY21 will allow local jurisdictions to be more resilient and proactive in conserving funding for unforeseen future expenditures.


Thank you for your consideration.


Sincerely,

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CARROLL COUNTY


Stephen A. Wantz
President


Edward C. Rothstein (COL, Ret.)
Vice President


C. Richard Weaver
2nd Vice President


C. Eric Bouchat


Dennis E. Frazier



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Jan H. Gardner
County Executive

Rick Harcum, Chief Administrative Officer

April 20, 2020

The Honorable Ben Cardin
United State Senate
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
United States Senate
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jamie Raskin
United States House of Representatives
412 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Trone
United States House of Representatives
1213 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: COVID-19 Federal Assistance Funding to Counties

Dear Senator Cardin, Senator Van Hollen, Congressman Raskin, and Congressman Trone:

I appreciate your leadership during our nation's response to this global health pandemic. I am writing to ask you to support the inclusion of direct funding relief for local counties than can be used to cover expenditures related to the pandemic and to cover lost revenue. The COVID-19 3.5 federal relief package can best help local governments meet the needs of our citizens if there is flexible funding that allows us to continue to provide essential services as well as protect public health.

I also ask for your support for Congress to allow the assistance provided through the CARES Act Corona Virus Relief Fund be used by local governments to both backfill lost revenue as well as provide health services. Counties with populations of less than 500,000 residents need the same flexibility as the larger jurisdictions who received direct block grants from the federal government. It is frustrating that smaller jurisdictions have additional requirements to access and utilize the funds provided by Congress.

The need for these dollars is immediate because Counties are not only responding to the COVID-19 crisis, but are continuing to provide essential services to our citizens. Frederick County joins other local governments on the front lines of our country's response to this pandemic in providing public health services, educating and preparing our citizens, and partnering and supporting our local hospitals and nursing homes. At the same time, we are coordinating with our counterparts across jurisdictions to ensure an efficient and timely response. County governments continue to provide essential services, including the operation of our transit buses, the deployment of Fire and EMS, law enforcement, food delivery to our seniors, water and sewer, trash disposal, and more.

Frederick County: Rich History, Bright Future

Winchester Hall • 12 East Church Street, Frederick, MD 21701 • 301-600-1100 • Fax 301-600-1050
www.FrederickCountyMD.gov

We face these challenges at the same time we anticipate a substantial drop in our income tax revenue, which constitutes 35% of our budget. As we look forward to the future, we know we will need to increase our capacity to respond to this health crisis as well as expand services needed to support our community's economic recovery.

Thank you for your advocacy and leadership during these difficult days.

Sincerely,



Jan H. Gardner, County Executive
Frederick County, Maryland

c: M.C. Keegan-Ayer, President, Frederick County Council
Michael Blue, Vice President, Frederick County Council
Phil Dacey, Member, Frederick County Council
Jerry Donald, Member, Frederick County Council
Jessica Fitzwater, Member, Frederick County Council
Kai Hagen, Member, Frederick County Council
Steve McKay, Member, Frederick County Council
Ragen Cherney, Chief of Staff & Legislative Director, Frederick County Council
Rick Harcum, Chief Administrative Officer, Office of the County Executive
Vivian Laxton, Director of Communications, Office of the County Executive
Joy Schaefer, Director of Government Affairs & Public Policy, Office of the County Executive



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

856 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
Telephone (213) 974-4111 / FAX (213) 613-1739

HILDA L. SOLIS

CHAIR, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT

February 12, 2021



The Honorable Carolyn Maloney
Chair, the Committee on Oversight and Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Maloney:

As Chair of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, I write to thank you for your thoughtful advancement, and the upcoming markup, of coronavirus relief measures that will directly provide states and local governments with funding to fight the coronavirus pandemic and its devastating economic impact. The County fully supports the critically needed allocation of \$350 billion in funding to states, localities, Tribes, and territories, that includes a direct allocation and flexibility for counties.

I am further encouraged by your statement that "Congress must take bold, urgent action to confront the crisis and show the American people that help is on the way." As you know, the County of Los Angeles has over ten million residents and has experienced dire impacts resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, the County has over 1.15 million confirmed cases of the virus and over 18,500 residents have died. Further, the rate of homelessness and poverty has increased exponentially, and the County continues to struggle to provide the increasing array of safety net services required for the safety and wellbeing of its residents. Those impacted most directly are residents of color, disproportionately overwhelmed and devastated by the unprecedented conditions brought about by COVID-19.

In summary, the County of Los Angeles, like many other counties is the provider of safety net services, such as food assistance, child protective services, and housing, and right now the net is frayed. The commitment to providing critical services and protecting jobs and the livelihood of its residents remains, but it is impossible without the federal support included in the Committee's Fiscal Year 2021 Reconciliation Act provisions, to include a direct and flexible allocation to Counties.

The Honorable Carolyn Maloney
Chair, the Committee on Oversight and Reform
Page 2
February 12, 2021

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact Elise Weinberg of my staff at eweinberg@bos.lacounty.gov or at 213-974-4111 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hilda L Solis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

HILDA L SOLIS

Supervisor, First District
Chair, Board of Supervisors

CC: Congressmember Rosa DeLauro
Congressmember Lucille Roybal-Allard
Congressmember Jimmy Gomez